ギルド新メンバーとひたすら修業!

アルファポリス

効率的な戦術で魔物を狩りまくれ!

経験値と資金をがっぽり稼げ!

累計3.5万部!

ほのぼの魔導修業ファンタジー第二弾!

The Mage Will Master Magic Efficiently In His Second Life

(効率厨魔導師、第二の人生で魔導を極める)

Volume 02

Kenkyo na Circle

(謙虚なサークル)

Story Description:

Zeff Einstein spent his whole life mastering red magic and was finally recognized for it, yet a new spell that was soon created revealed that his talent for red magic was his lowest. Bitter at the thought of all his wasted effort, he creates a spell to send his old self back in time to his younger body and together with the determined “genius” mage Milly and the handsome swordswoman Claude, he intends to master magic more efficiently this time.

Original Story can be found here: Link

Chapter 36: A New...

—-Town of Beruta.

「Waa～ So this is Beruta Town?! This is the first time I've ever come to such a big city! 」(Claude speaking) 「I have come here before, so let me be your guide. I will make sure, Claude doesn't become a lost child」 (Milly speaking) Could it be that she has already forgotten that the last time she came here, she was the one wandering around and getting lost like a child?

Milly was already leading Claude away, and separating from me.

「Hey! Where do you guys plan on going? 」

「Well～ I smelled something really nice from that direction so I kind of just……」

Milly is a person who really lives via instinct.

「Our stomachs are empty, let's go after we eat lunch? 」

Come to think of it, it is already daytime.

Having something to eat before heading off to Lydia's store is not such a bad idea.

But they should have at least said something before trying to head off.

—Down Town.

In the middle of the buzzing streets of Beruta, a fragrant smell of meat and fish being cooked stimulates our empty stomachs.

Along the pathways, there were numerous restaurants, and on the opposite side, there was also food stalls with all kinds of cuisines.

Milly had sparkling eyes as she looked around the vicinity.

Oi oi, saliva is starting to drip out of your mouth ya know? How improper.

Claude also seems to be in absorbed interest with her surroundings.

「Welcome! Welcome! That cute young lady over there! The Taikoyaki

our store serves is the best in Beruta Town! Please come over and try some!」

「Is that so?」

「Well that's the thing! When people of this town talk about Taikoyaki, it's always about our shop!」

Taikoyaki is is a mixture of meat being rolled in vegetables, furnished with a special sauce and then baked. (TL: if you search for images of 太鼓焼き(Taikoyaki), you will get a feel for what it is, although, I think it is traditionally meant to be sweet red bean pasting inside the muffin, and not meat) It is a local specialty dish from Beruta.

Naturally, there were other food stalls around grilling some Taikoyaki, but there was no one who boasted like the person in front of us.

The other food stalls were glaring at this particular shop, and it seemed that this guy didn't seem to care at all.

What a scary fellow.

「Then.....」

「You can't Milly-san」

Milly was completely enraptured by the smell of the muffins and she was about to buy them, the shop owner was also convinced that he had already won her over when a voice spoke out.

It was Claude.

「Whilst it is true that this shop seems to sell delicious Taikoyaki, but was it really true that it was the best in Beruta? Although I can't say that I've looked around at every shop, in comparison with other stores, both the quantity and the price for food here is much more expensive than the others」

「Th.....The meat we use here is different from the other stores!」

「The meat seems thin, and I feel that it doesn't look very fresh, wouldn't you agree?」

Guu.....the middle aged man gulps down his breath.

As usual Claude is really detailed.

She really acts like a girl.

Just as I was thinking such things, Claude looks at me with a smile that said “I am a girl, you know?”.

Can she read other people’s thoughts or something?

「With that being said Milly-san, my recommendation is that shop over there. It would seem that the: quality, amount and price are all of high standards.

「Nn in that case, let’s go over there!」

Milly immediately charges over to the shop on the other side.

The other shop stall owners all banded together with a gaze that said “Serves you right!” to the fellow who just got owned by Claude.

The grudge between these shop owners are a terrifying thing.

The shop that Claude recommend was a narrow place, but it served a large amount of food and was relatively cheap compared to the other shop, all three of us eat for a portion of five people, and both Milly and Claude had satisfied looks after finishing our meal.

————Lydia’s store.

We were standing in front.

The two girls seemed to be a little bit nervous.

The door rattled open, and we were allowed inside the shop.

Inside the store, there was several guests, and an energetic voice welcoming the customers was heard.

It was Lydia’s voice.

When I headed to the interior of the shop, Lydia’s back figure could be seen as she was doing her packaging work.

I notified the two girls, that she was the one I was planning on meeting.

「It's been a long time, Lydia」

When I called out to her, Lydia faced towards me and noticed our presence.

「Ohh～ Isn't it Zeph-kun! Long time no see, are you well? 」

She stood up and brushed the dust of her hips, her breasts which were standing tall before our eyes started to bounce. (sfx ponpon (brushing dust off) Same as ever, it was huge.

「Hello, I've heard so much about you from Zeph-kun. You must be Lydia, right? 」

Claude calls out to Lydia.

「Oh, Are you the one that Zeph-kun talked about? The person who is the Guild Master? You are quite the pretty boy aren't you? 」

「Thank you very much. However I am not the one who is the guild master. Moreover, I am a girl」

「Ahhaha. I knew that when I saw you! It's just that even so, you really seemed like a pretty boy! 」

「is……is that so?」

To be able to see through Claude being a woman in the first meeting.

Lydia is incredible.

「This is the Guild Master Milly」

「Umm……It's nice to meet……」

「Ohhh～ So cute～♪ petite～ and such a fluffy blonde hair♪」

「Mugyuu!?」

Lydia captures Milly who was trying to introduce herself, and starts to hold her tightly like a plush toy.

Milly's face was tucked just perfectly in between Lydia's breasts and whilst being embraced, Milly's hands and feet were struggling to get free.

「Please leave it at that, Milly seems to be in pain」

「Ariya(Oh la)?.....I'm sorry〜 Milly-chan was just so adorable.....」

Showing a smile that displayed her complete lack of reflection, she liberated Milly from her grasp.

Milly was having a violent coughing fit, and Claude anxiously calls out to her.

「Are you alright? Milly-san? 」

「.....」

「Milly-san?」

When I glanced at her from the side, Milly's face was like she just got totally defeated in something.

She was alternatively comparing her own chest to Lydia's, and the more she looked she rapidly started to show the white of her eyes.

「Milly?」

「.....It can't be, it definitely cannot be」

She was slapping her own cheeks, whilst deliriously talking to herself repeating the same thing over and over.

「Which reminds me, has the item I left with you sold yet?」

「Ahh, yeah. It got sold.....however, is Milly-chan okay? 」

「She will return to her usual self sooner or later, right?」

「Zeph-kun, you are unexpectedly quite heartless〜」

「It's her usual routine」

「Oh is it really....the norm〜?」

Lydia was smirking at me whilst we went deeper into the store.

Claude had a face full of concern as she kept comforting Milly, but it would seem that her recovery will not be seen anytime soon.

Because Lydia beckons me in, I decided to rely on Claude to take care of Milly.

「Yes! This is how much it was sold for, 320,000 Rupi. If I subtract the money lost when we went hunting, your share of the profits come to 305,000 Rupi, right?」(TL: Hmm reading back to Chapter 25: Bath, I calculated his profits to be 320,000-12,500 = 307,500, but I suppose I could be wrong... And Lydia is a professional scammer ~ On second thought, she probably took a fee to list the objects in her store) 「Thank you」

I received a bunch of paper money from Lydia, and I gave her my thanks.

With this amount of money, I think that the cost of living and purchasing equipment can be managed for now.

During break time, Lydia left the shop back to her father's care, and she was drinking tea with us.

Marveling at the tart cakes that Lydia made, we sipped on the slightly sweet tasting tea.

Once in a while Lydia would try to touch Milly's body, but the more she tried, Milly got better at running away, and Lydia seemed to have a regrettable look on her face.

This fellow, she's acting like some kind of sexual predator old man.

Like father, like daughter.....

Along the way, Claude started to sit in between the two people, at any rate, it seems like Lydia finally gave up.

「By the way Lydia, I was thinking of asking you to make our guild emblem accessory...」

As I said this, Claude began to show the emblem she designed to Lydia.

「Oh Well isn't this cutee〜Nn♪ But it will take a considerable amount of money you know? The cost for the design will be 50,000 Rupi, additionally each time you need to make one it will cost around 5,000 Rupi as well〜」

「Th.....That is fairly expensive isn't it.....」

It's custom made, and if we thought about it, it was quite a reasonable price, however, for us who, was already having trouble maintaining our equipment's, the amount was a little too severe for us to pay.

「Noo, well as one of the members of this guild, shall I cooperate with you guys just this once and make it free of charge〜?」

Lydia was crossing her arms as she said this.

Ah, that's right, I do remember inviting her to join the guild.

At that time, she didn't seem all that motivated to join, but it seems that she is considerably interested right now……Or more like she's acting like she has already joined.

Did she take that much of a liking towards Milly?

The person in question, Milly, was perhaps not good at dealing with Lydia, and hearing Lydia say such things, her body began to quiver. (sfx bikun = tremble/quiver) 「Nee〜 Milly-chan, what do you think?」

Lydia was staring at Milly with the eyes of some kind of carnivorous cat ready to pounce on her prey. Milly who was being asked by Lydia became silent, and after a while she answered back with a determined face.

「……..That's true… Since you are going out of your way to help us…..I think that we should rely…on you. From here on out, please take care of us Lydia-san……..」

「It's fine to call me Lydia〜 Let's get to know each other kay〜 Milly-chan♪」

Lydia cheerfully requests a handshake from Milly, and Milly bitterly accepts it.

As one would expect, from a devious merchant like her, she easily lures her prey in.

I talked to Milly using the guild message system.

(Milly, if you believe that Lydia is too difficult to deal with, you don't have to force yourself to put her into the guild, alright? Besides, we aren't that pressured for money right now) (It's alright, moreover this person,

she's strong right? She's really good with money, and her personality is also good, she's also really good at cooking, and she's a really beautiful woman.....H, her, b, breasts are also.....That's why I think that she will be a valuable asset for the guild!) I'm not quite sure whether the last few points she raised had anything to do with war potential though?

「I, won't lose alright.....!」

Milly declares such a thing towards Lydia whilst staring at her with a fierce fighting spirit, on the other hand, Lydia was grinning and affectionately looking towards Milly with a slovenly face.

Chapter 37: Base

—Beruta Inn

Lydia referred us to the「White-bellied Tanuki」, a three story inn that resembled a private house.

I suppose it's trying to infer that a tanuki with a white belly isn't evil and is instead sincere.

But, it gives off the complete opposite impression and is instead kind of suspicious...

The landlady seems to be good natured on the outside, and the flowerbed looks to be watered.

I felt some relief as it didn't seem particularly suspicious.

「Hello!」

「We'd like to take up lodging here for a while, are there any rooms open?」

「Oh, welcome.....a, could you guys be the three child adventurers Lydia-chan talked about?」

「That's ri~ght! We're the guild "Blue Sky Hunters"~! If you ever have anything you need done, please come ask us!」

Whoosh, Milly bows her head.

Shortly after Claude does so as well, and I, reluctantly, follow suit.

She shrewdly takes the chance for some early advertising.

Earning money from the people around here isn't really efficient or enjoyable, but it might be good hear their requests and take part in activities in the area to familiarize ourselves.

If anything were to happen, it'd be awkward if people focused on us, so I'd like to avoid that.

「Ahahaha, well then if anything comes up I'll be asking for you. The rooms can be readied soon, so as soon as you sign your name I can take

you in.」

Lydia's talk helped us out, and without any particular issues, we settled down at the inn.

Children staying and lodging by themselves for a long time could cause various problems after all. After we'd written our names in the register, we were given the keys and led to the rooms.

We rented two rooms.

One for Claude and Milly, and my room/storeroom.

Bags and various items are scattered about, livingware, clothes and luggage are tossed about even though we've just arrived.

By the way, most of the luggage is Milly's.

We'll have to clean it up later.

But I'm already worn out for the day. At times like this there's nothing better than taking a bath.

I heard there was a bath on the first floor so I grab a change of clothes and decide to head on down.

I opened the door and immediately ran into Milly and Claude both holding towels.

「Zeph you're going to take a bath too?」

「A...yeah」

「No peeking ok?!」

Bleh~ Milly sticks out her tongue at me.

Who'd wanna peep on you?

The three of us go down to the first floor bath and separate into two different changing rooms. I take off my clothes, open the door and look at the big bath room spread before my eyes.

The bath looks large enough to fit 10 adults easily and there are some rocks placed around that gives the bath a certain charm.

Come to think of it the landlady said that the White-bellied Tanuki's selling point was its large public bath. Certainly it's rare to see such a big bath anywhere.

I rinse myself, then thoroughly immerse myself in the hot water. The water surrounding me makes me spit out a sigh from my lungs.

Being able to have this big bath all to myself, is a so called luxury I'd say.

As I think that, the door clatters open and I hear people's voices coming closer.

Has this luxury ended already...?

I thought in disappointment as two shadows appeared in the steam.

They were a small shadow with long hair and a slender shadow with short-cut hair.

「Woah, what a big bath!」

「That's right, I've never been in such a bath before either」

It's Milly and Claude.

The two of them are walking with their fronts covered with a towel, talking amicably with each other.

This...This is BAD!

I dive under the water immediately and slowly move away from the exit and into the shadow of a nearby rock. (Illustration: Zeph on the Hide) Why were they here? This was mixed bathing?

Keeping quiet while my mind is in chaos, I let my head break the surface of the water.

Splash, I hear the sounds of people rinsing their bodies, followed by a splash as a body crashes into the water. The surface of the bathwater ripples.

「You can't do that Milly-san. You don't want to bother the other guests do you?」

「 There's no one else here. Claude you should come in too.」

「That's no good, mou~」

Claude smiles as she calmly enters the bath. The strict teachings of a high class family of knights have been thoroughly ingrained into her body I see.

Claude will never change in matters like this.

「Fuu~It feels sooo good」

「Mmhm!」

Claude is sitting still in the bath as Milly paddles around her.

And I'm sitting here wanting to move yet unable to.

What am I supposed to do? I think as I hear the sound of water splashing again.

「Hyaaaa!?」

「Fufufufu~ Claude-san seems to be quite stiff~I'll rub your shoulders for you~」

「Wai.....stop it plea....those aren't my shoul...n', that tickles」

Claude says that and twists her body, while Milly tries to hold on. I guess no one taught her to be calm and abide by rules in the bath.

She wasn't able to put up much resistance.

Claude's charming voice faintly echoes throughout the big public bath.

.....wait, this ain't funny.....

This is so vexing, I'm caught in between a rock and a hard place.

As the sounds and voices continued, I sank my head under the water and somehow managed to endure this situation.

And, suddenly Milly stopped moving around and Claude was left breathing heavily.

「Milly-san? What's wrong?」

「.....Claude, your body's covered in scars...even though you're a girl」

Milly already knew that Claude's body was covered in scars. However, even if she knew it, when the hot water turned her skin red and the scars were laid bare, it was enough to stop Milly completely.

Even though Healing can cure most any injuries, one thing it cannot do is heal the scars left over.

Even though she knew that, it seems she tried Healing over and over.

How should I say, it seems like a very Milly-like thing to do.

「Oh, please don't worry about it Milly-san」

「That's impossible」

The large bath fell silent and then, splash, the sound of water echoed.

Claude put her hand on Milly's head and slowly patted her.

「Claude.....?」

「Zeph-kun taught me that, if I do this Milly-san will quiet down. Though I might be insufficient.....」

「Ohh..... that Zeph.....」

Claude continued to hug Milly and patted her head. And though Milly was confused at first she had now quieted down.

Though I hadn't meant to teach her something like that...

Ah well, it's fine. I'll let her do it this one time.

The two finally left, and I rose from the bath completely dizzy and red.

Damn.....everything's spinning.....

I somehow made it to my room and flopped onto my bed when, the energetic Milly and Claude barge in. I get the impression that they asked me about some perfume and played around or something and asked me questions, but I was too light headed to remember much.

Later on we heard that the large bath apparently had a time for men to bathe and a time for women to bathe.

When Milly heard this she started to question me relentlessly. My bath was really short and I got out quickly, so I wasn't in there when you girls took your bath; was my answer. Despite that, even now she still suspects me.

Shit, I won't be able to take my time and enjoy my beloved bath for a while now.

Chapter 38: Screen Point (Part 1)

The girls and I went shopping at the street booth plaza.

「First we need to go buy Claude a sword!」

In the fight a few days ago, Claude's sword had broken, and now she was currently unarmed.

Right now her scabbard only had the hilt of her horribly broken sword sheathed in it.

「No, I'm fine really.....」

「Of course you're not alright. Be that as it may, we don't have any leeway in our finances. So later I'll buy something appropriately cheap.」

「That's awful!」

Though it isn't great for Claude, right now there's something we need to buy even more.

「Putting that aside, could the both of you look for an armored knight card? I'd like you to find two of them for about 100,000 rupi or less each」

「100,000? And two of them!? Don't we only have 300,000 rupi? We're just gonna suddenly spend such a large amount of money? 」

「Since we need it anyways. First we should prepare the most expensive and useful general equipment for our use.」

A card is a rare item that monsters drop that is extremely scarce and expensive. If you enchant equipment with them, many different effects can be achieved.

The armored knight card when added onto equipped armor (or clothes), gave the effect of reducing all damage by something like 20 percent, making it a card with some of the highest all-purpose usefulness when added to armor.

The armored knight's hunting ground was a popular spot for high level adventurers to hunt, so a fair number were being hunted, so the price wasn't too inflated.

「We'd buy three but we'd lose our funds for living, so we'll only get two this time. We'll enchant Milly and Claude's armor.」

「What about you Zeph?」

「Because Claude is the vanguard it's absolutely necessary for her, and Milly isn't yet good enough at moving around during battle. But I on the other hand, won't receive fatal damage if I conduct myself as I usually do」

「Even though you are always getting injured.....?」

「.....How annoying, I still haven't taken any fatal wounds, you know? 」

In the first place I could use Safe Protection, even two people wouldn't be a problem. Claude seemed to sense the mood and changed the topic.

「Oh yeah! Milly-san, should we compete to see who can find the cards cheapest? The loser has to do one thing the winner says」

「Alright! I'll take you on! 」

While I was picking a fight, Claude enjoys competition more.

The two of them energetically disappeared into the street booth plaza.

I myself went to look for a weapon for Claude.

Oh, there's a short sword for 5,000 rupi.

That's cheap.

Claude will have to settle for this for a while.

After all, the armored knight cards were 100,000 rupi each, but we were able to get them for 98,000 rupi each.

It ended with Claude as the victor.

Milly was frustrated at her bad luck, but once she understood that Claude had honestly bargained the cards' prices down, she admitted her defeat.

Claude is such a reliable person.

When we got back to the inn, we enchanted Milly's mini dress and

Claude's plate with the cards. The equipment absorbed the cards and were given the 20% damage reduction effect.

「Is it alright to use such a worn out thing? Shouldn't we have put it on better defensive equipment than this? 」

「Good defensive equipment is much more expensive than a card. For now, any equipment is good enough, when you add the armored knight card it'll become defensive equipment.」

If we find second-hand equipment at the stalls then it's all well and good, but without knowing who wore it or what it was used for, the two girls might not want to use it. For my part I'll find some quality second-hand goods and change their minds sooner or later.

「Oh yes Claude, could you go out with me a little later? I have some things I'd like to test.」

「I don't really mind though?」

「I'm coming too~!」

「Milly you clean up your luggage that you threw in my room. It's completely messed up...you need to throw out the unnecessary stuff or something but get it out of my room.」

「Aaawww~!」

「If you're gonna complain then put it all in your room.」

Milly pouts and puffs out her cheeks as she begins to clean up my room. We leave and move to a different location. Claude tried to help, but you can't spoil Milly like that. She needs to be able to clean up her own messes.

Outside the Town...

「There's a lot of things I'd like to hear about your Screen Point Claude. Could you please tell me about it? 」

「I don't mind at all」

At that time, Kane had used his spell invalidation magic "Screen Point".

If we can make use of this magic, then the number of hunting grounds we can utilize will increase.

「Screen Point is, as I said before, a magic that invalidates spells' effects. Though I say that, the magic's effect is dependent on the conditions and the person using it, my brother's Screen Point is usually able to eliminate almost all magic cast at him, but mine can only do about half.」

「Could you let me see you use it for a bit?」

「Sure it's fine」

Saying that Claude closed her eyes and began to silently cast her magic.

As she concentrated, I began to see some sort of thin, see-through membrane covering Claude's body. I reached out and touched Claude's body, and once I did my magical aura was shaved off in an instant.

Rather than blocking magic power, it was more like a magic that devoured magical power.

I cast Scout Scope on Claude.

Claude Leonhardt

Magic Power Level ————

Certainly her Screen Point was weaker than Kane's. When I tried to cast Scout Scope on Kane, it didn't even activate.

「Now it's about time for me to fire some magic at you alright?」

「Wai-please stop! Painful things will still hurt me you know! 」

「That was a joke」

Are you telling the truth? Is what her face seemed to be saying.

As I thought, it appears that it could only eliminate the effects of magic to a certain extent.

Claude released her Screen Point and she looked a little worn out.

It might be my imagination but, Claude's magical aura seems to be fairly depleted....

Perhaps..., I think and cast Scout Scope.

Claude Leonhardt

Level 26

「Red」 Magic Value 9, Magic Limit 45

「Blue」 Magic Value 5, Magic Limit 39

「Green」 Magic Value 0, Magic Limit 40

「Sky」 Magic Value 0, Magic Limit 47

「Soul」 Magic Value 0, Magic Limit 51

Magic Power 149/456

Kane's magic power was only 39.

In other words, Screen Point was a magic that was usable with that level of magical power. Nevertheless, Claude's magic power had decreased by 300.

「Claude I'd like you to use ball」

「Ok」

「Could you let me see you fire five at that boulder over there?」

「That's fine」

Saying that she turned to face the rock, and cast Red Ball five times.

The rock only ended up slightly burnt with a few cracks in it.

Claude's magic level was low so this is all it would amount to.

I cast Scout Scope and when I looked, Claude's magic power was 50.

「Can you use Screen Point one more time?」

「Eeeeh~ I'm already tired though.....」

Even though she says that, Claude starts to cast Screen Point again.

This girl seems like the type who can't refuse a request.

As I think that, I cast Scout Scope on Claude again.

As expected, that's how it was.

Screen Point is a magic that increases in strength the less magic power you have.

In other words, the magics called "Mage Killers", are exactly what they sound like "magic that kills magic".

The effect is that the one who uses this magic, will in all likelihood be affected by the magic's effects as well. Therefore, there are very few mages who would use the "Mage Killer" magics, basically the only ones who would use this would be those who don't use magic in their occupations.

「Claude would it be alright if I fired one spell at you?」

「I already said you couldn't!」

「It'll be fine, it won't hurt at all. Do you think I'm lying to you? 」

「Eeeehh~? I, I said no~」

「Don't worry, I'll use my weakest one」

I say, and to lessen her nervousness I give her my best pretty boy smile and cast Blue Ball.

I let the ball standby above my right hand, and for some reason Claude seems incredibly nervous and is looking at me with unease.

Why?

I invoke Blue Ball, and even though it hits her directly, Claude, of course, suffers no damage.

How about that? I think as Claude stares at me in confusion and disbelief.

And I even told her not to worry.....

「Most likely Screen Point is a magic that when activated, is more effective the less magic power you have. Kane was born with very little magic power, so when he uses Screen Point he almost has zero magic. That's why he's almost invincible against magic.」

「Eeeh~How do you know something like that?」

「Uhh.....」

.....Ah crap, Scout Scope was supposed to be kept a secret.

Ahh whatever, Claude's already a close comrade.

She's already told me all about Screen Point, so I can't really keep on hiding it.

I explained Scout Scope to Claude and she seemed pretty surprised.

「Scout Scope.....Is it. It's a pretty terrifying magic.....」

「It's a secret」

「I understand. You can't teach this kind of magic to someone unless they're a friend or comrade.」

Well there was a certain dumb girl who bragged about this magic immediately after meeting me.

I'm just sayin'.

「Certainly my father said something like that. That if a person was weak in magic skills Screen Point would be more powerful.」

The Leonhardt family was a lineage of knights, so they probably hadn't experimented too much with magic.

「Also one more experiment. Could you put this on? 」

I say that and hand her my worn out old clothes. Claude takes them with a confused expression.

「During the fight with Kane, Crimson Blade tore up his clothes, while my Red Crash didn't hurt him at all. I'd like to know the exact effects of this magic.」

By the way Safe Protection's 90% damage reduction has been applied to the equipment.

「.....In other words, you want to see if my clothes will rip if I'm using Screen point....right? 」

「Yep」

Claude's face blushes red before my eyes and she cries out in a high pitched voice.

「Wha.....What are you thinking?! Zeph-kun you pervert! 」

「No, that's why I had you change into my old clothes ok?」

「That makes you sound even more perverted!」

In the end Claude's extreme opposition ended the experiment before it started.

Even though it was a necessary experiment.....

Chapter 39: Screen Point (Part 2)

-Lake Shore–

We came to the lake shore that Milly had found previously to continue our Screen Point experiments. Here there were monsters that used magic to form a body out of water, they were called Aqua Elementals. Today, Milly also accompanied us.

「Milly, Aqua Elemental is a monster created from water, so the Blue Magic System won't work on it.」

「They're a level 2 attribute monster right?」

「These are a type of monster with a weak attribute and a strong attribute right?」

A monster born from an element (element is also the core magic and the source of the monster's image) like the Aqua Elemental was called a level 2 attribute, and magic from the same attribute would not work on it at all. However, these monsters' special traits don't give them an advantage, in fact for us mages it made them into sitting ducks. While one attribute is completely defended against, on the other side they have one attribute that they are extremely weak against.

「That's right. The attribute weaknesses go like this, Red>Green>Sky>Blue>Red, like that it would mean that the Aqua Elemental of the Blue trait would be weak against the Sky magic system.」

「I got it! I got it! 」

Well, it is the basics of the basics after all. Be that as it may, this is Milly after all, so I have to make sure. Though looks might not be everything, this「indeed」appears to be a level 2 attribute monster.

As we were walking and chatting, the surface of the lake began bubbling and foaming, and the Aqua Elemental showed itself.

It took the form of a nude woman with long flowing hair, maybe this was to invite carelessness or even tempt unprepared people.

Sorry but in my eyes you only look like a target.

「Black Sphere!」

Air blades gather in the air above the Aqua Elemental, and they fall onto it ripping and tearing apart its head.

(—-Too shallow huh?)

Sphere magic has superior power and range, but its invocation time is slow and it's hard to control, making it a difficult magic to use.

But if I think about the future, it might be good to train my Sphere magic from now on.

For now, if a strong enemy appears I'll use Pyro Crash, though because it has a short range it'll be hard to use on fast monsters, so it might not be particularly useful at times.

Also because I have low talent in the Red magic system, I should really only be using it as a last resort. I'm considering a substitute for Pyro Crash, I'm thinking about combining Black Sphere and Green Sphere. I'm not skilled in it yet so I'm not ready to brave giving it a test run.

As I was thinking, the Aqua Elemental that I'd cut up soon returned back to its original shape.

As I thought, it really is hard to control.

The Level 2 Attribute monsters mostly have indeterminate forms, unless you completely crush them they'll quickly reform.

They do sustain some damage, so if you continuously attack them you can beat them, though it's really inefficient.

「Zeph you suck at this~ ♪ Why don't I show you how it's done?」

.....such humiliation.

If you're going to say that much then why don't I have you show me then?

「Black Bullet!」

Milly stuck out her right hand and magic gathered around it. The magic

power formed countless small bullets that fired out rapidly, and the Aqua Elemental was pulverized.

Black Bullet was a rapid fire version of Black Ball, it was an average magic even though it had high destructive power....that's because it's wasteful. It uses so much magic that most don't consider it anything but second class.

As always her fighting style is sloppy...but, unexpectedly this kind of 「sloppy」 fighting method, might suit the current Milly quite well. Milly was taught magic by her father, but Milly was and is childish and can't really grasp the fine details of magic usage.

Because of that, for now, a battle style and tactics that relies on selecting the correct high powered magic might not be a bad way for her to fight.

However, this forceful way of doing things is really only possible because it's Milly who has high natural talent, if a mage with meagre talents tried this they'd quickly run out of gas and collapse, and they'd be a useless mage that needed to be carried. I have to make sure to teach her not to do these kinds of things.....

As the Aqua Elemental dissipates, Milly looks back at me with a face brimming with pride. She gives me a triumphant peace sign (V sign) with her fingers.

A.....Annoying.....

「By the way Zeph-kun, didn't you say that there was something you wanted to do the other day?」

「Now that I think of it that's right. If I ask you, will you use Screen Point after decreasing your magic power like we did yesterday Claude? 」

Leaving the proud looking Milly aside and continuing to talk, she looked kind of lonely and immediately dashed over to us and looked at our expressions.

You shouldn't have been like that in the beginning if you wanted us to keep you company.

Claude Leonhardt

Level 26

「Red」 Magic Level 9, Magic Limit 45

「Blue」 Magic Level 5, Magic Limit 39

「Green」 Magic Level 0, Magic Limit 40

「Sky」 Magic Level 0, Magic Limit 47

「Soul」 Magic Level 0, Magic Limit 51

Magic Power 45/456

After using magic many times, I give the gasping and panting Claude the OK.

A use of Screen Point uses about 50 magic power. I overcame Claude's opposition to the experiment (she couldn't wear my old clothes, and instead removed the plate with the card enchantment), the results were that when Screen Point was used with magic power of about 50, then my 2nd grade magic was unable to damage her clothes in the slightest. Once I, against my better judgment, took advantage of an opening and fired a more powerful magic at Claude and succeeded in barely ripping her clothes. Though right afterwards Claude gave me quite the slap....

Without the equipment with the expensive card attached, I thought it would be obvious that something would break in that experiment.

It's not my fault.

Well that aside, Screen Point doesn't seem to protect anything other than the person's body completely. If a powerful enough magic is used then the equipment can be destroyed it seems. Crimson Blade destroyed Kane's equipment, this was probably due to it being combined with Claude's sword technique and gaining the power of a great magic spell.

「So what was it you wanted to do?」

「Could you go stand by the lake for a little while?」

The confused Claude goes and stands by the shore, Milly and I distance

ourselves from Claude slightly.

「What are you doing Zeph?」

「Well, just watch」

Claude at first didn't understand what was going on and just stood there looking at the surface of the lake, a short while later she noticed something and took a large leap to the side.

Immediately after, a water hammer slammed into the place where Claude was just standing. I looked at the origin of the water hammer and saw the Aqua Elemental approaching out of Claude's line of sight.

「Claude! If the Aqua Elemental can't get close to you it will only use magic attacks! All you have to do is stay still don't dodge and you'll still be fine!!」

「Even if you say that, it's still scary!!」

Though she is right, it's finally a good chance to try the magic invalidation, I'm not gonna pass it up.

「Get used to it Claude!」

「Hiiiee!?」

「demon.....」

As we talk the Aqua Elementals appear on the lake's surface and continue to shower Claude with water hammers. Once the number of attacks exceeds 5 it becomes practically impossible to dodge, Claude readies herself with her shield.

However, the shield placed directly in front of her can't protect her feet, head, or sides. The water hammers shower down on her from all sides.....

Screen Point was activated so the impact to her body was almost completely negated, but the water fell on the ground and splashed, causing Claude to get soaked in the blink of an eye.

「Black Bullet~!」

「Black Bullet」

Milly and I continue to exterminate the approaching group of Aqua Elementals……

After exterminating them, I go to show my appreciation for the person who did the most this time around, Claude, who is absolutely soaking wet.

Her wet hair and clothes are sticking flat to her skin, and it emphasizes her slim body line.

She's shivering a little, even though it's early summer if you get that wet you'll be cold.

「Claude are you alright?」

「You're cruel……」

「Umm….sorry, I'm reflecting on my actions……but, I want you to become as accustomed to using Screen Point as possible. It's such a powerful and unique magic after all……」

It's hard to use it often during hunting…..

However, thanks to Claude, we were able to earn quite a bit of experience.

How about I treat her to some juice on the way back?

Chapter 40: Telepathic Communication

「Welcome back~」

When we got back to the inn, Lydia greeted us at the entrance. It seems like she'd been waiting for us to return.

「Lydia-san! You came over? 」

「These, were finished」

She said and took out 4 badges from her cleavage.

Outrageous...where do you think you're taking those out from...

The small badges she took out had the "Blue Sky Hunters" emblem glittering and shining on them.

「「Ooohhh~!」」

Milly and Claude raise their voices in admiration. I don't yell out, but a sigh of admiration leaks out.

The hunter has a blue hat, blue clothes, and is nocking an arrow on a bow, it felt as if the hunter was about to fire at some prey, the brass badge was delicately and exquisitely made.

「Weelll~ this was the first time I made our guild emblem like this so I got really into and...somehow ended up pulling an all-nighter」

Ahahaha, Lydia laughed with a face a little more haggard than usual and dark circles under her eyes. It had been, after all, not even 3 days since we'd made the request, so it was no wonder.

「.....Thank you, Lydia. This was 70,000 rupis right?」

Milly said and took out some money from her pouch.

「It's fine! We're in the same guild yeah?」

「I want to pay even so!」

Milly forcefully pushed the money to Lydia. Lydia refused it, but Milly continued to push it back to her. As the two pushed the money back and forth between them, it ended with Lydia breaking down accepting the

money.

「W~well.....Thanks Milly-chan!」

Lydia accepted it and smiled sweetly.

Milly stood there looking triumphant.

This is probably not really a victory.

「Huh? There's only 65,000 rupis here though....」

「Eh? No way!?」

She rummaged around her bag, but no matter what she couldn't find the rest.

「....it looks like it's not there. Sorry....」

「Well this is more than enough. I'm happy enough with the thought」

「But if it's like that, then I would feel bad....」

Lydia's face looked as though she'd thought of something, and she began to smile broadly at Milly.

「.....Then the missing 5000 rupis, I'll have you pay it off with your body~」

「Eh?」

As Lydia finished her sentence, Lydia embraced her with all her might. She pressed Milly's body against her and sniffed her hair while groping her butt. She gropes and knocks down the bewildered Milly.

「W.....Stop it!.....di.....a.....aahhhhnnn!」

「A~n holding Milly-chan feels the best~ ♪I want to hold her when I come back home every day and snuggle before falling asleep~ is that okay Zeph-kun?!」

.....why are you asking me?

It's obvious that it's no good.

After that Milly's groans and moans echoed around the room for a while, while I and a slightly red faced Claude listened.

「Ok! I have received my payment~ thank you for the treat Milly-chan ♪」

「……yo……..you're very welcome……」

A little while later, a deflated Milly who had been released stumbled unsteadily, her clothing and hair were in a horrible mess. Lydia, on the other hand, had a deredere(lovestruck) and blissful expression as she sniffed the hand she'd used to grope Milly with.

This girl is an absolute pervert…..

–Dining Area of the Inn–

At Lydia's suggestion the four of us decided to have our evening meal. These kinds of things can deepen our comradery, that being the case there is no reason to decline.

The dinner menu was bread and stew with lots of vegetables in it. The meal is simple but the amount is bountiful, it is more than enough to fill your stomach. The bread is served in the stew making the soggy and soft bread even more delicious.

Milly took her bread and broke it into smaller pieces and threw them into her mouth.

Claude used a knife, spoon, and fork to eat with elegance.

Those are some perfect table manners.

Lydia just stuffed as much food as she could as fast as possible into her mouth.

It looks like she's a merchant who values time over manners.

……Well if I had to say, I am also the same kind of person as Lydia, so I can't really make a bad comment about her eating manners.

(By the way, is this the thing called telepathic communication? It's the first time I'm using it but is seems pretty useful) (But without practice, it's difficult to…..nicate) Lydia, with her mouth full, was unable to speak so she used telepathy to communicate. It seems that Claude can't use it very well, at certain points noise overlapped her voice. It might be strange effect from her Screen Point.

A while ago, Milly put magic into the badges that Lydia made, so Claude, Lydia, and I are already using the guild message. Milly and I created the guild using crystal rings and we were the first members, so even without the badges we could use the guild message.

(But with this.....I can join.....Milly-san.....and Zeph-kun's.....versation) (Araa~ so it's only been the two of you using it till now ne~ I'm really sorry for breaking into the world just for the two of you, Milly-chan ♪) 「Huuhhh!? It's not really like that!」

Milly responds to the two who are silently giggling at her with a big shout causing the landlady and the other adventurers to look at us in confusion.

「The three of you should play when we get back to the rooms rather than out here. Though I don't really care myself.」

They finally noticed the gazes of the people around them, lowered their heads in embarrassment, and focused on their meals.

After we finished eating and cleaned up our dishes, we asked Lydia various things.

At this moment we were pretty much broke and we didn't have any good money making ideas, so Claude asked Lydia for ideas.

「That's true ~ Hunting bosses are also a good option.....But if a rare item doesn't drop, won't we be making a loss? In my perspective I think it would be better to hunt for easier monsters that will still drop a decent rare item, and use that to create our weapons.....Or more like please get the materials for me! I will even buy it off you guys! 」

「Ingredients.... small-rares huh. Though I don't really enjoy hunting for small things.」

「I like hunting for small-rares! I can feel my motivation going up」

Seems like Claude is like the common people.

Small-rares are when a regular monster sometimes drops a "rare" item, but in comparison to boss rare items these drop more often, therefore

they're called small-rares.

「It's in the east, do you know about the Sunray Mountain Range?」

「Aah, that one?」

I point my thumb over at a mountain with its peak covered in clouds. The Sunray Mountain Range has the highest mountains on the continent, magic power gathers around it and it is a large dungeon spot. There are a lot of monsters that drop good items for weapons, they even drop ore or crystal small-rares.

「I wanted to go hunting there on my next break, does everyone wanna come with? I'll buy all the materials that appear」

「O-K~!」

Milly responds with cheer.

I guess we don't get any choice in the matter.

Claude looks at me and our eyes happen to meet. She makes a troubled face and laughs a little.

Chapter 41: Sunray Mountain Range

–Foot of the Mountains–

Today the four of us met up and came to the mountains.

We left in the morning on a horse-drawn wagon and arrived just before noon.

I could've teleported us over but, "since we have the opportunity we might as well enjoy the trip!", Lydia suggested, so we decided to get on a carriage.

If I teleported this distance I might've been on the point of collapse, they might've been taking my needs into consideration.

We weren't alone in the wagon, there were other adventurers in their own parties. The foot of the Sunray Mountains is a pretty popular hunting spot, so quite a few adventurers go there.

「Oooh~Amazing Zeph! Look at how tall the Sunray Mountains are~!」

「Milly is this the first time you've come to this mountain?」

「Mmhmm, I can see such beautiful scenery!」

「Zeph-kun you're even younger than me and yet you know quite a lot huh...」

「Wellllll, this is quite a famous mountain....」

「First of all, let's eat our lunches before we go out to hunt! Mmmm~ I'm starving~」

And so, we sat down near the wagon and ate our lunch. The driver and horses were near the watering hole and ate as well. Each day they take adventurers out this way and earn their living expenses.

The lunch that Lydia made was the Beruta town's specialty Taikoyaki, the two of them devoured the sweet delicious treats. The beautiful atmosphere of the mountains made Lydia's cooking seem even more delicious than usual.

By the way, Lydia herself was staring at Milly, who had her cheeks stuffed with taikoyaki like a chipmunk, with a love-struck deredere kind of face. I guess this was the reason Lydia gave Milly the largest one huh……

After we finished eating, we went up the mountain path a little, and saw the adventurers that we were travelling with in a battle with some monsters. The foot of the mountains is home to a type of monster called Stonegell, it looks like a mix of rock and jelly. It is a type of monster that is pretty tough against physical attacks, but it doesn't usually attack others and it can drop ore and minerals, so beginners are advised to hunt them. Almost immediately, a stonegell wells up by Lydia's feet.

Let's see what'cha got.

Walking briskly

As the three of us notice the stonegell, Lydia ignores it and keeps on walking. Milly, looking very confused, casts Blue Gale and defeats the stonegell in one hit. And luckily it drops some dull iron, Claude places it in the bag while inquiring.

「Lydia-san, are we not going to hunt any stonegells?」

「Nn, yeah? Dull iron is normally sold in stalls, my aim is the Roc Bird」

「…..Roc Bird is a monster that appears at the summit right? Are you planning on going now?」

「I want to go halfway up the mountain and stay in a mountain hut for one night, then I was thinking of starting our hunt the next day…..oh, it would've been better if I told you that earlier right? Sorry! I don't usually party up with other people so I kinda…….if it's no good we can go back, ok? 」

The three of us are standing there glaring at Lydia, who is apologizing.

Maybe it wasn't on purpose……..

「…….well I don't really care, but next time you had better tell us beforehand. And about the materials, this time you're buying them at a

higher price.」

「Ohoho of course~ I'll give you some good service Boss♪」

She says this and rubs her hands together while squeezing her breasts between her arms.

This girl definitely did this on purpose.....

As expected of a greedy merchant, how underhanded.

Milly keeps glaring for a bit and then

「Zeph-kun is this really alright?」

「Though the Roc Bird is a pretty strong monster, level-wise it is about the same as an Aqua Elemental. There are also relatively few of them so we should be able to handle them one way or another.」

「We used Screen Point to nullify the magic of the Aqua Elemental and defeated them, so it's hard to tell how strong we are in comparison.....」

That's a pretty sharp comeback.

Ah well, we're already almost halfway up, let's find a few Roc Birds, and if we see that we can't fight them then we'll just leave. I say so to soothe Claude.

「Anyways let's go and take a look! If it's impossible then we just need to leave!」

Milly and I seem to be of the same opinion.

「As expected of Milly-chan! You understand me~」

As Lydia says that she tries to grab on to Milly, but Milly smoothly dodges.

Huh? Lydia's face seems to say as her hands grab onto nothing. She looks up at Milly who has a face filled with triumph. It seems like she's gotten used to the sexual harassment, so now she understands Lydia's patterns and was able to read her moves and dodge beautifully.

We are climbing the mountain (though I say that it's honestly a pretty gentle slope) slowly and leisurely while at times teleporting. On the way,

there are some times when we see some monsters, because I need to conserve magic I don't fight. The view is good, so it'd be a waste to teleport the whole way.

「Blue Gale!」

Milly fires a big spell at a group of Stonegells.

As always she just forces her way through.

Well, it's fine anyways.

I thought that Milly's teacher just had a fighting style that wasn't really smart or stylish, but that was probably just prejudice, now that I think about it, her teacher's fighting style may not have suited her so she uses this one, and anyways this fighting style just doesn't suit me so I can't really come to any conclusions. The only thing I can say is that one needs to find a fighting style that suits them.

Though I say this, your teacher can have a huge influence. I have to admit, even my Time Square, was heavily influenced by my teacher's unique magic.

Though I'm embarrassed to say that.

As I was lost in my thoughts, a cry comes from the shadow of a rock and a long neck appears. A white head, red crest, and black-haired lines. It's neck stretches, and it stands up on its thick looking legs. When it does it seems to be even bigger than Lydia. It has sharp and curved claws and an equally sharp beak that seem to be able to tear people apart easily.

「That's....a Roc Bird」

「Alright! Let's do it~!」

「Blue Gale!」

The tornado hits the Roc bird head on, but it endures it and charges right over.

It quickly attacks with its claws and Claude takes the attack on her shield, Lydia sticks her hand between her breasts and takes out her bag from between them. She then proceeds to take out her great axe from the

bag and she swings it.

……but with a skillful movement of its neck, the Roc Bird dodges her big swing smoothly. Then it aims its cruel looking beak at Lydia who's unbalanced.

……but another example of skillful movements is shown, this time by Lydia, she dodges and then at the same time kicks off of the Roc Bird's head.

……she's as monstrous as ever.

Myself aside, Claude, who's nearby, seems quite surprised.

At this moment, it's movements have stopped.

I fire my magic at the temporarily stunned Roc Bird.

「Pyro Shot!」

The magic ball I shot, drills right into the Roc Bird, and it stops moving.

「Blue Gale!」

The magic tornado that Milly shot, surrounds the Roc Bird, and sends its body flying into the sky and it disappears.

Chapter 42: Mountain Lodge

After beating the roc bird, Lydia hit her palm with her fist as if she'd just thought of something.

「Nn~ This feeling……could this be the feeling of leveling up?」

「Congrats Lydia!」

「Congratulations」

I secretly used Scout Scope and saw that Lydia's level was still around 13, it didn't appear to have gone up by very much. That should be pretty obvious as Lydia usually acts as a salesperson, minds her shop, and draws up designs instead of hunting usually. The roc bird is worth quite a lot of experience points so this time she was able to level up quite a bit.

「Hehe no~ you guys are all pretty strong. Big sis was surprised.」

「No, Lydia-san is also really…..strong…..」

「Yeah! whistle The enemy went BOOM and CRASH and you dodged…….anyway it's amazing!!」

Claude's confidence in being the vanguard seems to be tattered a bit, while Milly was waving her arms around to demonstrate how Lydia moved during the fight. Lydia's face immediately became pervy and love-struck (deredere).

Everything else aside, the roc bird was a pretty strong enemy. It not only has a pretty high level, but it's tough and moves quickly, it is a well-rounded monster.

「If two roc birds come I'd like Claude and Lydia to take them on, this should be the method of dealing with them. If three come, then I'll take Claude and Milly will take Lydia and run away using teleportation. For now let's go with this kind of plan.」

They all nod.

So in order to familiarize ourselves with the roc birds, we aimed to walk to the mountain lodge. We continued to walk leisurely up the mountain

path.

「There are two over there」

Lydia pointed at two roc birds lying around in the bushes comfortably. I can't see very well because of the bushes blocking my view, so if we weren't moving this way I probably wouldn't have seen them.

「Blue Gale!」

Milly cast her magic and at the same time Claude and Lydia rushed out. According to plan, they each take one of them as their opponent. Claude should reach her opponent first...probably.

I cast Pyro Shot at the roc bird and hurt it while making it recoil. As expected combo magic with good range is much easier to use. Pyro Shot is a little lacking in power though, I should try a little more to develop some magic with both power and range. Recently we've been fighting a lot more tough enemies. Well if I spend some time then I should be able to come up with something.

「Blue Gale!」

By the time the second tornado hit the roc birds Claude and Lydia had already started fighting. In this way we continued to climb the mountain, a couple times we encountered some roc birds but we made pretty good progress.

As the sun started to set and the sky turned red, Milly's face was also pretty red, and she seemed to be pretty tired and sweaty. She was kind of stumbling and her eyes weren't focused on anything in particular.

The mountain path must be pretty hard on a child. Even more so because of the need to fight as we progressed.

Even so she has her pride, Do you want Lydia to carry you?, this suggestion was offered many times but it was always rejected.

I can walk fine on my own, so she says.

Claude has quite a bit of travelling experience, so even though she is carrying heavy equipment she doesn't seem extremely tired.

「Ooh I see the Mountain Cabin Milly-chan」

「Really!?」

Suddenly Milly got excited and started to run.

Hey come on, it's dangerous if you start to run all of a sudden.

As I think that, the next second Smack she falls flat on her face. She immediately sits up, stops moving, and her shoulders start to shake.

Ah ah……didn't I tell you……

Lydia runs over to Milly's side, the Claude and I quickly follow.

–Mountain Lodge–

Inside the lodge there is a plain table and stool, a fire pit in the center, and a futon folded up in the corner.

「Let's stay here for the night」

「Ahhh I'm tired~」

「I'm also kind of covered in sweat. I want to wipe down my body, but……」

She says and shoots a glance in my direction.

Get out, that seems to be the message.

Though I intended to do that from the beginning.

「When you're done call me」

I say so and leave the lodge.

Outside it's getting dark, but the roc birds don't move around at night so it should be safe.

As soon as I left, a great commotion started inside the lodge. It seems like the source of the disturbance was…Milly was about to change her clothes and Lydia wanted to help but she refused, then Lydia started chasing her.

What a ridiculous game.

Ah, Lydia sunk her poisonous fangs into Claude who tried to stop them……

If I stick around here my heart and morals will be in danger….

I move away from the lodge and sit down upon an overhanging cliff. It's very close to dusk and the mountain wind blows and it feels like today's fatigue is being washed away.

Well, I wasn't really that tired anyways. While we were climbing, I used body reinforcement magic. It wrapped my feet in wind and raised my physical abilities, I used the Sky attribute magic, Black Boots. Also I used recovery magic Healing at the same time, so while my abilities were boosted, my body's burden was also reduced. When I combine two different support magics together, a new and improved effect is created.

「It's a magic that makes you feel like you're walking on air….I think I'll call it Wind Walk」

The magic usage and effect aren't very suitable for battle, and it doesn't have too many uses. By the way, I didn't use it on Milly because if you have it too easy while you're young your body will end up being badly affected. Mages, even at the best of times, don't move their bodies very much, in essence this kind of magic shouldn't really be used outside of battle.

Also, it's not that I'm wanting to take things especially easy by using this, I myself am working hard to experiment. When I think about how Claude and Lydia have joined, a magic that can boost physical abilities will definitely be useful. For this reason, I need to think of a couple different kinds of magic that I can use. For example……

「Zeph!」

…….and Milly's voice has broken my train of thought. It looks like they've finished cleaning themselves up. Milly has a refreshed look about her as she puts her messy hair into order.

But really, it feels like all my alone time is disappearing. I feel like I've been spending quite a lot of time with Milly, I'll be training by myself and

thinking, and suddenly Milly will just appear.

Come to think of it, I'm thinking about Milly and the others an awful lot. Only a little while ago I was thinking about how to use my magic to help out Claude and Lydia.

Hmmm……recently, my goal to practice magic efficiently to the limit seems to be getting further away…..

Well, making the guild stronger and leveling up faster is in line with my goals but…I feel like I might be caring and thinking about these girls a little too much……

「What's wrong?」

Milly interrupts my thoughts and stares into my face. Her face is way too close, and I freeze up. If we move our necks a little, we'd touch, god there's got to be a limit to how defenseless you can be.

I seem to have changed since I met Milly, and know that I think about it I think I've continued to change ever since. And the cause of this, Milly, is standing here staring right at me looking confused.

「It's nothing, I was just thinking about how I'd changed and gotten a little strange. That's all.」

「What are you saying Zeph? You've always been kinda weird. You know a lot about difficult stuff, you use special unique magic, and you say stuff like washi 」(washi=which is a form of saying "I" used by elderly men)

Milly says this and giggles.

So that's how it is……she might be right, but she really said quite a bit huh.

I give a wry smile and scratch my head while remembering Milly's carefree smile.

Chapter 43: Early Morning

–The Next Morning–

I awoke feeling chilly. I moved my body and saw that the sky outside was still dark. I shook a little, covered myself with a blanket and once again tried to go to sleep. However, it doesn't seem like I'll be able to sleep any longer.

「.....mornings on a mountain are pretty cold huh」

Now that I look over, the three of them are all hugging each other and sleeping in a kind of pile, it looks pretty warm and comfortable.

.....wait, that's not right.

When I look more closely, Lydia is crushing the both of them in her arms, Claude and Milly have a somewhat painful look on their faces.

Lydia's face seems really happy because she has a flower in each hand. (A beautiful girl on each arm) The three of them seem warm, so I put on my coat and go outside.

I've finally found some time to myself. Shouldn't I use it to train my magic?

When I get outside, I hear the sounds of birds calling in the distance.

Are the Roc Birds starting to wake up? How about I go look for them a bit?

Oh yeah, this is the first time in a while that I've gone hunting by myself.

Well from the start I prefer solo-hunting. I've had to go hunting around with the guild, so little by little I've gotten used to it, but when there are too many people hunting you lose a certain tension, and it gets boring pretty quickly. If you get too used to slacking off or having it easy, somewhere along the way you'll lose your drive. It's that kind of thing.

A mage has a weak body and when they're alone they need to both attack and defend. This makes solo hunting as a mage quite dangerous.

However, magic is a deep and profound art, if you prepare for all kinds of circumstances there is always some way to「withdraw」safely.

If you do the very best action, at the very best time and you continue to do so, then theoretically no matter the opponent you should be able to win.

I cast Safe Protection, and begin to teleport.

First I should start by searching nearby. In the areas right next to the cabin there are very few monsters.

I teleport and meditate while I look around, and once I confirm whether there are any monsters about, I move on.

After I've moved a couple of times, I catch the shadow of a Roc Bird from the corner of my eye.

I'm still pretty far away from it, so it hasn't noticed me yet.

This is great, let's try this out.

I cast Time Square, then as time slows I cast Black Sphere and Green Sphere.

「.....Gu.....!?」

The moment I activate the magic in both my hands, I find that I can't aim at the roc bird's location very well, making my aim inaccurate.

I try to readjust but I can't do it very well.

To raise my accuracy, I do as I normally do, but the aim I had imagined was greatly shaken. I still hadn't gained proper control of the magic by the time it fired.

Voom.....and a pitch black sphere of magic appears on a boulder far from the roc bird.

The magic ball hits the boulder. It is chipped, shaved, and crumbled. By the time the spell finishes quite a bit of it has been consumed.

It didn't stop at the destroying the rock, it swallowed the morning mist and a large amount of dust and dirt, before finally disappearing with a

small explosive sound.

The aftermath was half the ground and a boulder were gouged out completely.

By how cleanly it broke the rock, the sharpness and strength of the attack is easily visible.

「Haaaa haaaaa……Damn it, it's really hard to control……」

I lay spread eagle on the ground, panting miserably.

Sphere type magic has good power and range, however, it is really hard to control.

Especially using Green and Sky types that are originally difficult, this raises the degree of difficulty even higher.

It's embarrassing to say, but in my past life when I learned how to use magic more proficiently, I stopped using these two magic types.

It seems like this is what I get for slacking off.

Inside of Time Square I can multiply power and combine magic but the cost of each spell doubles. It also looks like the difficulty of controlling the magic also doubles.

If I'm not wrong, even though magic ball originally has a long range, the「magic range」attribute should also have doubled.

So I don't forget later, I cast Scout Scope on myself.

Zeph Einstein

Level 36

「Red」Magic lvl 30/62

「Blue」Magic lvl 25/87

「Green」Magic lvl 28/99

「Sky」Magic lvl 29/89

「Soul/Spirit」Magic lvl 29/97

Magic Power 300/1325

I used 1000 already……that's absurd.

However, the power and range correspond with the consumption.

The problem is control.

As I raise the level of Black Sphere and Green Sphere, I'll somehow reach the point where I can use them well I think.

A mass of wind pressure that crushes and pulverizes, it annihilates, and anything it consumes seems to disappear like it's being crushed by gravity.

「I think I'll call it Gravity Sphere」

I'm not able to use it normally yet.

For now, I check my surroundings and begin to meditate.

Now that I've recovered to some extent, I'll continue to accompany that roc bird from before. As I meditated, I measured the distance between us, and made sure that I didn't lose sight of it.

I don't have much time till everyone else wakes up, so I can't waste my time looking for another enemy.

I aim at it just as it reaches the very edge of my range.

「Black Sphere」

I aim at the roc bird's body, and a whirlwind appears in the correct place…but, it had already moved from the center of the whirlwind, and it began to charge using its strong legs.

「Black Sphere sucks in air pressure from the surroundings and uses wind to cut things continually. It's not so easy to escape from it.」

It has taken some damage, but it's pretty tough I see.

It doesn't care about its injuries and has already shortened the distance between us by half.

With this kind of fast enemy, it's impossible to escape on foot.

I cast Red Wall.

Right before the roc bird stabs through me with its beak, a pillar of fire erupts before my eyes and repels the roc bird.

The only type of wall magic with offensive capabilities, Red Wall.

This pillar of fire will burn, repel, and stop any enemy that touches it.

However, this effect doesn't last for long, now when I have the chance to burn it.....!

I was about to cast Pyro Crash, but then I thought.

What would happen if I use wall type magic and Gravity Sphere at the same location? This sort of magic decreases in accuracy the greater the distance.

.....Shall I try it a little?

The moment that Red Wall breaks, I teleport away.

The roc bird lost sight of me for a moment, but soon chased after me with great speed.

I leisurely walk around while meditating and when it gets close I teleport.

I continue to teleport around without letting the monster lose sight of me.

As I continued to do this, nearby roc birds all started to gather and chase me, now I have five roc birds chasing me around.

However, they're pretty spread out.

If I can't get them all gathered in one place it'll be troublesome.

I aim a short distance away and cast Red Wall, the flame wall repels the roc bird in front.

But the roc birds that followed it caught up and charged the wall together and broke it in a moment.

But, they're finally all gathered together.

「Gravity Sphere, Lock」

I aim at my feet and cast Gravity Sphere.

Right before my eyes, the group of 5 roc birds charge straight at me.

They stick out their claws to rip me apart.

I teleport, and head to the top of a cliff.

「.....Crash」

At that moment, as they lost sight of me, the confused roc birds gathered in a group, then a pitch black magic sphere appeared. The magic enveloped 2 roc birds immediately and annihilated them completely.

The remaining roc birds immediately distanced themselves, seeing that their partners were beaten, they escaped at top speed.

「The area of effect is pretty small and it takes time. I guess I have to say that this magic is not very efficient huh....」

The scattered roc birds returned to the earth, and when I glanced around I noticed the morning sun climbing through the sky.

Milly and company have probably already gotten up.

I should start heading back to the lodge now huh?

Chapter 44: Enhancement

When I got back to the lodge, Lydia and Claude were making breakfast. The rich scent of Miso Soup was floating through the air.

Even before we'd left, Lydia had stuffed various vegetables into her bag. As I suspected, she planned to stay over right from the start.

As expected of a shady merchant.

[Welcome back Zeph-kun] [You wake up early huh, on the other hand look at Milly-chan.....]

Lydia looks amazed as she points at Milly, who is still snoring and drooling.

She's as weak as always in the morning.

I give a wry smile while looking at her as she turns over and continues to snore.

[Is there anything I can help with?] [It's fine, it'll be done soon] [Yep yep, just take it easy]

The two of them kindly refuse, and since I have nothing to do I guess I'll mess around with the still sleeping Milly.

I poke her cheek, and her face looks a little unhappy as she turns it away and twists her body. I don't mind it and keep on poking her, and she continues to roll and roll away.

This is kinda funny.

Lydia is showing great interest in the state of affairs over here, her eyes have gotten big and she is staring fixedly.

In her hand she is gripping a kitchen knife and is rhythmically cutting vegetables.

Look at what you're doing, Look!

Then a little while later,

[Zeph-kun, Milly-san, breakfast is ready] [Milly wake up it's morning]

[Nnnn~I'm up~]

She says as she raises her arms.

'Pull me up', is probably what she means.

What a needy fella.

[Aa.....]

As I come around to Milly's front, I hear Claude start to say something.

Hesitantly I grab Milly's hands, she grips on and completely lets her weight settle on my arms.

[Uo!?]

I lose my balance and end up right on top of Milly.

Before I even noticed it, both her arms had wrapped around my back and she held onto me tightly.

[Ehehe~ Good morning Claude~]

It looks like she's mistaken me for Claude.

She hugs me and snuggles her face into my chest.

At this turn of events I can see Lydia's jealous face.

It looks like she's saying 'I'll do it next time'

[.....Nn? Somehow today, isn't Claude's body kinda harder than usual?]

PatPat she goes. Milly rubs my back.

[Are you still half-asleep Milly?] [Eh.....huh? Ummm.....Zeph?]

Milly separated herself from me, opened her eyes, and confirmed that it was me. Then as she looked at me her face got bright red, then....

Thump!

And she head-butts me and starts to bite at me with all her strength.

While I'm in pain she goes, Why is Zeph here!? Idiot! Hurry up and get out! And such.

It looks like she is actually still half-asleep.

After we eat breakfast and go outside the weather seems to have cleared up.

There are few clouds and the earth stretches out before us and we can feel the sun shining down on us.

[It's so nice out huh~?]

As Lydia stretches, her big breasts assert themselves as they jiggle and sway.

When Milly sees this, her face seems to get a little depressed.

[B.....By the way, shouldn't we start climbing again?]

Claude guesses what's going on and changes the topic.

What an attentive fella.

[That's ri-ght, if we climb some more to a more open place, roc birds are often there, so let's get going.]

Lydia lifts her right hand as if to say let's do it, and once again her breasts shake grandly.

–Meadow near the top of the mountain–

[Waa~ This is so nice~]

[Yep, the wind feels great~♪]

Milly closes her eyes, spreads her arms, and enjoys the wind blowing through the meadow with her whole body.

Indeed, the wind feels good when it strokes my cheeks.

[It's a good place right? In the past, my family used to come here pretty often]

To have a picnic in a place where strong monsters show up often....it seems like her entire family is just as monstrous.....

[Shhh!]

Lydia puts her finger to her lips, and everyone quiets down at this signal.

There are 2 roc birds hanging about in the grass, we're pretty far away so it doesn't look like they've noticed us.

[What should we do Kuro-chan?] (Nickname for Claude...it'd be Clau-chan but Japanese pronunciation makes it Kuro-chan) [I will take the one on the left and Lydia-san please take care of the one on the right] [Alwight] (she says it cutesy) [Both of you wait. There's something I want to try]

As Lydia looks at me confused, I cast Time Square.

With time stopped I cast Black Boots twice and Lydia's feet are covered in wind.

[Ohhh!? It kinda feels like my body got lighter?]

Black Boots enhances the physical abilities of the target and since it's been cast twice simultaneously, the power has risen even higher.

However, inversely the time it can remain active shortens by quite a bit.

[This is fun!]

HopHop* she hops twice, then a third time, in the next instant she kicks off the ground and appears almost instantly in front of the roc bird and it gets blown backwards.

[How fast!?]

Milly is surprised and looks at Lydia who's still in the air. Before we noticed it, she took out her axe and is gripping it with both hands. The remaining roc bird shoots its neck forward to stab Lydia with its beak.

But, at that moment Lydia disappeared, and reappeared at the roc bird's feet, she then hauls back and swings at the roc bird's feet as hard as she can.

Flinching, the roc bird stumbles.

[Blue Gale!]

The whirlwind/waterspout that Milly calls forth batters the roc bird, and taking advantage of this, Lydia once again strikes with her axe.

Her movements are like a whirlwind.

I can't see her moving at all.....it looks like I raised her speed a little too much.

[This is the enhanced version of Black Boots huh. It looks like it's too difficult for me to master] [As I thought, it looks pretty harsh]

This magic raises your speed but, you can't really figure out when the effects will stop. If the effects stop in the middle of an enemy's attack, rather than the magic helping you dodge the strike, you'd be more liable to get hit.

Even so, it looks like Lydia will somehow be able to handle it, but it's too difficult for me and Claude to utilize this.

[Attack enhancement and Defensive enhancement would probably be better I think, huh?] [Claude why don't go give Attack enhancement a try?]

I cast Time Square, and then Red Glove twice, and Claude's arm is covered in flame.

[Amazing.....I can feel strength overflowing....!]

Claude rushes over to the roc bird and swings her sword.

[Teyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!]

The sword seems to cut right into the roc bird's body, but Ba kin!! a sound echoes and it breaks.

[It can't be!?]

It was a cheap sword without enchantment, so it couldn't endure Claude's enhanced strike.....

It seems like synthesized Body enhancement magic really does choose it's own user.

She somehow managed to dodge the roc bird's counterattack and forces it back with her shield.

[Blue Gale!]

Milly's magic explodes, and the two roc birds are crushed.

[Oh I think my level went up?] [Congrats!] [.....Lydia-san, didn't it just go up yesterday?]

Lydia is only level 14 still.

It's very likely that it will still continue rising.

Chapter 45: Assault

A little while after we beat the roc birds, Lydia's enhancement magic ended, and a little while after that, Claude's did as well. The enhancement time was about 2 minutes and the magic consumption was about 300. Looks like it only lasts as long as a single battle.

「The magic usage is pretty big and the length of the effect is short, it looks like it isn't usable very often」

「Ehhh~ Even though it was so much fun~」

「My sword.....it broke.....again.....」

Both of them are disappointed.

Though the cause of this is completely different for both of them.

Looking around while meditating, I see things moving around here and there.

It seems like these meadows have quite a few roc birds living here.

「Looks like it wouldn't be good to advance carelessly」

「Because we have a good view point a surprise attack shouldn't be a problem, but the roc birds are really fast」

It'd be bad if they surround us.

There's no need to be overly cautious though.

「I will move to the front. I have great confidence in my eyesight」

Lydia thumps her chest and we leave the vanguard to her as we slowly advance.

We completely ignore the stone gels at our feet.

Suddenly Lydia stops in front and puts up two fingers in a peace sign.

There are two roc birds, I think she means.

「Let's do it」

I murmur, and they nod.

In the distance, far enough that you'd strain your eyes, there are 2 roc birds relaxing under a tree.

It's really well done that she managed to see them at such a distance.

There aren't even any roc birds in our surroundings.

We carefully approach, and once we enter the right range I cast Time Square.

In the time manipulation I cast Black Sphere and Green Sphere at the same time.

「Gravity Sphere」

The magic activates and I aim for the roc birds' coordinates, and murmur.

「Lock」

As I let out my voice, I target them with my index finger. With this my aim improves, if you designate a target by aiming like this, the accuracy can be raised. When I was a beginner and I couldn't aim very well, my master taught me this to improve my accuracy.

「.....Crash」

I flick my finger up and the magic activates (like a finger pistol), and right before the two roc birds a pitch black magic sphere appears. The roc birds realize the situation and immediately split up to dodge, but one of them was being drawn into the magic.

It braced its legs, but soon enough it was engulfed by the magic. With a billowing sound it was destroyed and crushed.

Smaller and smaller the magic sphere shrunk until.....

Along with the disappearance of the magic, one roc bird was completely erased.

Even though there was quite a distance between us, I somehow managed to hit it straight.....as I breathed out a sigh of relief, the remaining roc bird charged us at incredible speed.

「Blue Gale!」

It broke through the whirlwind that Milly created and attacked with its sharp claws……

DING!

Claude stood in its way and received the blow on her shield.

Lydia swung her axe at full power at the off-balance roc bird's head.

The roc bird fell dizzy at my feet with its head all confused.

It's a chance.

I aim my open palm at the body of the roc bird and chant my magic within a second.

「Green Crash」

The earth cracked and split where the roc bird was lying.

Green Crash can only really be used when close to an enemy, but the power of the other Crash type magic can't be compared to it. If the hand to hand combat skill of the mage isn't high enough, it makes it very difficult to use on stronger monsters, chances like this are rare, so when I can use it I will.

Also, when I use such powerful magic and unleash such destruction, I look pretty cool.

——Oops, as I was being silly the roc bird counterattacked.

As soon as I got away, Milly attacked the roc bird with Blue Gale, it was ripped apart and destroyed. After the tornado subsided, there was something left glittering there.

「It looks like a roc bird's claw, huh」

Lydia hoisted up the claw and tossed it to me.

I couldn't catch it too well and I bobbled it around a bit before grasping it.

「Is it okay for me to be carrying this?」

「Well, in all honesty, my bag is pretty full at the moment. Don't worry, I'll properly buy it from you later.」

At some point she had picked up enough that her bag was almost full, isn't that a bit too fast?

As expected of a merchant.

Roger that, I put the roc bird claw inside my own bag.

It's considerably hard, if you cut down its size would it turn into a knife blade or a spear tip?

「Ohh~ My level went up~」

「Congrats~ ♪」

At the honest praise from Milly, Lydia blushed.

Then Claude moved close to me and whispered into my ear.

「.....Zeph-kun, you can see levels with Scout Scope right? Is it possible that Lydia-san's level is really low?」

「There are some things it's better you don't know」

「.....I suppose so」

Lydia's level is lower than Claude's by about 20, but it's better to keep that a secret I think.

If you're hunting with Lydia, it might be better to forget about levels altogether, though it's a little late to say this.

We continue to hunt roc birds while advancing carefully and searching for enemies.

When there are two of them, we just fight as we always do. If there are three of them, I use Gravity Sphere from a distance and as long as I hit at least one of them we begin to fight.

If I miss, then Milly teleports us away.

For now, it looks like my accuracy is at about 50% or so.....

As I'm thinking while I walk, Lydia's movements stop.

I wonder what's wrong.

As we become cautious behind Lydia, she looks carefully from left to right, then slowly looks up into the sky.

——Shit!!!

「Everyone! Above us! Get outta the way!」

I say and grab at Claude's hand, as she is the closest to me, and cast teleport.

「Milly-chan!」

At the moment we teleport, Lydia dives towards Milly.

Immediately after that a 巨 shaped shadow dives down from the sky causing a cloud of dust.

——-*Flap* and the giant wings shake and cause a great wind to blast making the tall grass tremble and dance wildly.

As the dust settles, a clear 巨 shaped red silhouette appears.

This huge shape has 4 long wings growing from it, a long beak, with a red, white and yellow crest that looked beautiful. It seemed somehow divine.

The Sunray Mountains' top boss. It was the Sunny Raven! It spread its wings across the sky and let out a piercing cry.

Chapter 46: Sunny Raven (Part 1)

WhooshWhoosh* the Sunny Raven flapped its huge wings shaking its feathers and making the surrounding plants dance wildly in the wind. A little later the wind reached us, we were enveloped by the torn earth and grass making it extremely difficult to keep our eyes open.

Even so I pried my eyes half open and looked towards the monster and saw Lydia covering Milly with her body while they lay on the ground. They both seem to have lost consciousness but Lydia had unhesitatingly shed blood to protect Milly.

「Milly-san! Lydia-san!」

「Wait Claude!」

I grabbed Claude's shoulder as she was about to rush over to them and somehow managed to hold her back.

You...you do know you're unarmed right?

I cast Time Square and cast Black Boots 2 times inside it.

When I released it, swirling whirlwinds clad Claude's feet.

「Black Boots Double」

I cast Time Square again then cast both Blue Weapon and Blue Crash at the same time.

The broken sword in Claude's hand started to grow a water blade, and the sword reformed.

「Aqua Blade」 (TN: Come on Zeph you're getting a little too cool tone it down) ---It seems like I'm almost completely out of magic, but I have enough for one more!

「Spirits of the Earth, Become a Suit of Armor to Protect This Body」

「Safe Protection!」

「Thank you very much!」

Each moment being precious, as soon as the casting finished, Claude

launched herself forward.

I followed as well.

「Listen ok!? As soon as you receive a blow or an attack, Safe Protection will come apart so immediately return! If you're not close enough I won't be able to heal you!」

「I understand!」

She says this as her eyes continue to stare straight at the fallen Milly and Lydia without wavering.

Tsk.....do you really understand?

Before she goes too far I talk to Claude via telepathy.

(I'll give you a signal about 10 seconds before the effects of Black Boots Double ends. Once I do, by all means you must withdraw! Got It!?) I think she heard me, but she didn't respond.

Now that I think about it, Claude isn't very good at using telepathy.

When I thought about trying it once more, Claude had already closed in on the Sunny Raven in an instant.

Damn it, anyway I'll somehow manage!

「Teyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!」

The blue blade attacks and it looks like a moon has been drawn by the slash as the Sunny Raven defends with its wing.

It bites into the wing and feathers go flying everywhere.....but that is where the blade stops.

——As I thought it's really hard!

A boss has powerful magical defenses and is composed of immense magical power.

An average attack will most likely not be able to break through these magic defenses, and will be unable to break through the monster's body.

Rustle.....Claude tries to pull the blade out of the wing, but the tough

flesh and feathers that covered the wing prevented her from doing so.

She kicks at where the sword is stuck and it shakes and trembles, but still refuses to come out.

「Daaaammmnnnn iiiiiitttttt!」

In order to shake off the groaning Claude, the Sunny Raven, easily lifts its wing, and swings itself from side to side with all its strength.

The Sunny Raven's strong legs spun around and around making its large body spin while moving its wings in an arc to scrape them along the ground.

As the Sunny Raven kicked up a huge cloud of dust, it disappeared from sight.

How did this happen? I have no idea what the situation is.

But, I don't stop and thrust myself into the swirling cloud of dust.

I immediately cast Scout Scope.

Sunny Raven

Level 77

Magic Power 151345/220580

I wonder if someone started fighting it immediately after, it's pretty hurt but right now that doesn't matter. Inside the dust cloud, neither of us can confirm the other's location, but while using Scout Scope's readout, I can confirm the Sunny Raven's movements using its silhouette. It closes up its wings and I leave the dust cloud and watch carefully.

「Green Sphere, Set」

Whispering and murmuring, a glowing green magic sphere appears on standby. Then I retreat from the dust cloud and move to the back of the Sunny Raven, I activate the Green Sphere that's been on standby.

It enters the dust cloud, the Sunny Raven stabs its beak at the shadow which just appeared, but too bad that wasn't me.

When Green Sphere hits that beak, it slowly turns and drags the raven's

large body to the ground.

With a cracking sound, the Sunny Raven's head is slammed onto the ground.

Now before it's too late...!

Behind it, the dust cloud dissipates and I run towards the fallen Lydia and Milly. I only have enough magic left to teleport. I lower my body and try to make as little sound as possible as I advance.

I barely dodge the leg of the struggling Sunny Raven and reach out to the two unconscious girls.

Reach!

And the giant figure's movement stops, suddenly the surroundings get dark.

I raise my head carefully to look, and my gaze meets the Sunny Raven's golden eyes.

Kiyurururururu.....it makes an unpleasant sound as it takes aim at me.

Did it eliminate Green Sphere with sheer strength?!

Boss's really do have powerful magic resistance.

Therefore, magic that is usually very powerful can't, in many cases, showcase its full power, status effect magic might even have their effects invalidated.

It bends its neck and aims at me, then strikes with all its strength.

———but, this is within my assumptions as well.

The incredibly fast downward blow, made the wind howl as it approached us.

CLANG a metallic clank resounded, and the Sunny Raven's beak slams into the ground. Before us Claude is posed with her shield after redirecting the attack.

When Claude was unable to pull out the Aqua Blade, I let the blade shrink, at which point it was easy to pull it out.

Then as soon as Claude pulled out the Aqua Blade, I conveyed my movements to her via telepathy, and requested support.

「Daa!」

Claude pummels the Sunny Raven with her shield.

During that gap I rush over to the two on the ground.

.....Thank goodness, somehow they're safe.

「That's enough! Come here Claude!」

「I understa.....」

As Claude was responding the Sunny Raven's eyes glint and shine, and flames leak from its beak.

It pulls as hard as it can and pulls its beak out of the ground and opens its jaws wide.

In the dark depths of its throat a small flame appears for a moment, then grows as it bursts towards Claude.

– Red Barrett!

The flame shot engulfs Claude in an instant, and then continues to fire. The powerful torrent of flames seems to raise the temperature of the surroundings.

「Claude!」

(....kay. I am.....ight ok.....Milly-sa.....and Lydia....n.....) It seems like she activated Screen Point at the last second.

Anyway I'm relieved.

Nonetheless, these flames are hard to approach.

I ought to look after the collapsed Milly and Lydia.

My magic power is almost completely gone.

Claude is using Screen Point and Black Boots Double should still be active for a while.

Which means there's one thing I should do.

Leave this area to Claude, take these two and retreat.

That is the most efficient way....of...doing...things.....but!!!

Damn it!!!!

I punch the ground and regain a little bit of my composure.

(.....I'll be right back. Don't die on me Claude.) (Right!)

I have nothing else to say when I hear Claude's heroic response, and I use the last of my magic to cast teleport.

Chapter 47: Sunny Raven (Part 2)

「.....ly!.....Milly! Get it together Milly!」

「.....n..nya?」

After I called her over and over, finally Milly's eyelids opened.

Lydia hasn't stopped bleeding and shows no signs of waking up.

「.....huh? Zeph what's wrong?」

Kyoton(Astonished SFX) Milly looks at me vacantly and it seems like she doesn't understand the situation at all.

「Hurry and cast healing on Lydia!」

「Huh? Ummm.....!?」

Seeing the blood covered Lydia, Milly's expression instantly changes.

She rushes over to Lydia and begins to cover her in Healing magic.

「The boss pounced on and assaulted us. Lydia covered you when you fainted, and now Claude is facing it alone」

「.....!」

I reported the desperate situation and she gasped.

When I heard it coming out of my own mouth, it even made me feel like crying.

「.....Is Claude ok?」

「It's tough」

Milly blanched and focused on speeding up her healing.

However, when I said "it's tough" I meant "it'd be tough for her to do it alone".

If I go, then I should be able to handle it one way or another.

.....but, shit...

My magic is still hasn't even recovered to 20% as of yet, because I'm in

such a rush and my calm has been disrupted, I can't meditate properly.

It can't be helped, even though this goes against my nature……

I bend myself over the unconscious Lydia's stomach, stuck my hand up through the bottom of her clothes, and felt around.

「Wh-wh-wh, What are you doing at a time like this Zeph?!!」

「Sh-shut up fool! Even I didn't want to have to do this if I didn't ha…..there it is!」

I pull out Lydia's bag from between her breasts. I stick my arm into it and grab the Magic Recovery medicines from inside it, then I drank.

While I was drinking I cast Time Square, then Healing twice.

The healing light layered on top of Milly's and brightened further, Lydia's horrible complexion became a little healthier.

But, it seems like she still hasn't regained consciousness. I've already taken many magic recovery medicines and even my pocket has some stuffed inside.

「I'm going back to give Claude back up. Milly, I'll leave Lydia in your care. Be careful of the roc birds around here.」

「O, Okay」

I cast teleport to return to Claude's position. The battlefield is quieter than it was before, and I can't help but get a bad feeling about this.

When I teleport back to Claude the fight seems to be nearing its end.

One of the Sunny Raven's wings is cut, shredded, and dyed red with blood.

Its beak is cracked and chipped in several places. The tip of the battered beak is wet with blood and Claude's body is inside it.

Her body is dangling loosely from the beak. She isn't moving at all, not even a twitch.

「CLAUDE!」

The Sunny Raven turns toward me as it hears my scream and begins to growl.

The moment I see the Sunny Raven's emotionless face, the entire world is dyed in blood red.

「.....Kill」

I face the Sunny Raven and prepare for battle as magic floods out of my body. The moment I cast Time Square to utilize Gravity Sphere, Claude's hand twitched in response to my voice and she moved.

Thank goodness, somehow she's still alive.

However, I still want to kill this bastard.

I aimed at the Sunny Raven and magic gathered in my hand.

「Gravity Sphere.....Lock」

I have to quickly save Claude from that evil bird's beak.

At that moment the Sunny Raven opened its beak wide to swallow Claude.

「.....Crash!」

I aimed at the scruff of that thing's neck and invoked Gravity Sphere.

The magic sphere appeared and warped the space around it, dragging the thing's body in while distorting it as it let out a creaking, crunching sound.

「Gururururururu eeeeeeeee!!」

It let out a cry as it tried to endure, it opened its beak wide and released Claude, who fell towards the ground. I managed to teleport fast enough to catch her.

Claude dropped from a considerable height, and when I caught her my arms received quite a shock, strong enough that it felt like my arms were going to fall off.

「Heavy...!」

I was supposed to catch her all cool and suave, but I let out a groan and spoke without thinking.

As expected, my strength has fallen back to how it was as a child.

It looks like I'll have to train myself once again.

「.....That's horrible of you.....to say you're heavy to a girl.....」

Holding onto consciousness, Claude whispers this while smiling slightly.

So she heard that just now...

「.....the armor is heavy」

I played it off with all my might, but she smiled and it seemed like she'd seen through it.

Tsk, this isn't over.

I smiled wryly as I held Claude in my arms and was about to teleport away, but it looks like things weren't going to work out like that.

The Sunny Raven's eyes shine sharply, it is forcefully pushing Gravity Sphere down and attacking me with its wing.

By chance it misread the distance and when I jumped back I was barely able to dodge.

I cast teleport, but I can't activate it properly.

The Sunny Raven is getting close, and I'm carrying Claude.

It takes more concentration to use teleport, I need to calm down or I won't be able to use it.

Sensing my flustered mental state, Claude whispers in a small voice.

「Zeph-kun, leave me.....」

「Are you a fool? If I planned to abandon you then I wouldn't have come to save you in the first place」

「I guess so.....」

Claude grabs onto my clothes.

「Hold on tight」

「.....ok」

I cast Time Square while embracing Claude.

Inside the time suspension I cast Black Boots twice and activate it.

My feet are surrounded by wind and I run with all my might.....but, the weight of two people lowered the speed more than I had thought.

The reason for this is physical enhancement magic largely depends on the subject's initial physical abilities.

「Jump to the left please!」

I react to Claude's voice and jump left, and a large yellow beak passes to my side.

The Sunny Raven creates gusts of wind as it stabs down.

If I get hit by something like that, even if I have Safe Protection, it won't end without injury.

The wind pressure breaks my balance slightly and I quickly look to the side, and see at the end of a long neck, a big bird's head looking at me and smiling.

No, it's flame leaking from the beak, that's what that expression means.

——Red Barre.....「Pyro Crash」

The spiraling flames that I blasted forth, smashes the Sunny Raven's jaws open, and it engulfs the Red Barrett as the spiral continues to grow.

「_____!!」

The smashed beak of the Sunny Raven issues a mute cry as the flames spread to its head and neck.

Now when I have the chance....!

The appearance of the Sunny Raven's wrecked body, gives the feeling of a fallen king.

——When a boss takes a certain amount of damage it can enter into

Madness/Rampage mode, in this mode fighting power increases.

The shell of the Raven crumbles, and a burning red body made of flames is revealed.

As it spreads its wings fully, it seems like a flaming fortress.

……Tsk damn, it's entered its madness mode huh?

One of the conditions to enter madness mode is to have magic power lowered to one-third of the total. Claude's valiant fight against it may have backfired in this situation.

Furthermore the Sunny Raven has…….

——-such overpowering magic.

Madness mode bosses spread out overpowering magic, magic with a certain range including teleportation magic that requires good concentration are basically sealed.

The range of this fallen king is remarkably vast.

It seems like it's no longer possible to run away.

Its red eyes burning with a desire for revenge, the Sunny Raven glares at me.

It flaps its wings towards me as if waving hello, and from there a huge number of fire balls are flung towards me.

Geh……Red Ball! Moreover such an insane number!

「White Wa……」

As I cast White Wall, I stop.

Shit, the magic power I have now is……

Magic recovery medicine….!

I desperately try to search the bag, but by now the Red Ball is almost right on top of us.

No good I won't make it……

「Zeph-kun!」

Claude cries out, embraces the back of my head, and I suddenly feel a soft sensation pressing against my lips.

Instantly my mind stops.

Right in front of me, with her eyes closed, is the face of a furiously blushing Claude.

Claude's tongue enters into my mouth, and at this point I finally understand what has just happened.

The next moment the Red Ball rained down on us, a pillar of fire and a cloud of smoke exploded into the air.

The smoke cleared up and little by little a big round shadow slowly crumbled.

That was the White Wall which at the very last instant blocked the rain of Red Balls.

From behind the crumbling wall the figures of myself and Claude appeared.

We separated our faces, and Puwaaa breathed.

There is a slightly bitter taste left in my mouth.

A while ago, Claude fed me the magic recovery medicine mouth to mouth.

Though I had Claude take the magic recovery medicines before, I never thought that it would come in handy like this.

「Sorry. You really helped me out.」

As one would expect, it's embarrassing.

I thank Claude with a red face.

「……Um, this should be left a secret from Milly-san……」

This last sentence was said very quietly.

We're so close that we can hear each other's heartbeat.

「Well Claude, a secret is all well and good, but can you keep what I'm

about to do to yourself?」

「Eh.....what are you.....Yaaah!?」

I slightly drop Claude making her let out a little scream.

When I regain my balance properly, I once again lift Claude back up.

「Since the Sunny Raven has entered its madness mode, its magic has a big range. In this situation escaping is really difficult. That's why, I'm just going to kill it」

「That's.....yeah, ok. But, why did you want it to be a secret...?」

I gave the confused Claude a roguish smile and answered.

「Because I'm not going to use very decent or respectable methods」

Chapter 48: Sunny Raven (Final)

After the destruction caused by the flames, we stood there unharmed. For a moment the Sunny Raven looked at us curiously, but it immediately readied itself for battle and spread its wings.

Claude Leonhardt

Level 31

「Red」 Lvl 9/45

「Blue」 Lvl 7/39

「Green」 Lvl 0/40

「Sky」 Lvl 0/47

「Soul」 Lvl 0/51

Magic Power 46/596

It seems like when she held the magic recovery medicine in her mouth a little while ago, her magic slightly recovered.

There's a perfect magic for this situation.

「Claude, activate Screen Point please」

「Understood」

A thin membrane covers Claude's body.

The Sunny Raven begins its assault and flaps its wings towards the ground, at that moment.

「...Lock」

I chant with my finger firmly pointed at the Sunny Raven's feet.

-Blue Wall!

The moment I chant my spell, a wall of ice appears at the raven's feet and traps one of its legs.

It's only a moment, but it is temporarily stopped and I won't let this opportunity go.

I then cast Blue Wall twice more, and the Sunny Raven's entire body is encased by ice.

Blue Wall is the hardest of all the 5 wall magics, it creates walls and narrow passages that hinder the enemy's movements.

However, that's the only publicly known use for it.

The complete sealing of the Sunny Raven's movements that I have just done, is a secret use for Blue Wall.

These walls made by magic will take time to destroy, no matter what magic resistance the boss has and even if it uses its full strength.

The wall type spells will appear at the exact coordinates you aim at when you invoke them.

It's necessary to aim for the monster's coordinates as accurately as possible to perfectly use Blue Wall. It's difficult to invoke it on a moving enemy, but you only need to catch them once then it's possible to completely seal their movements.

「Kurrurururururu.....」

Crreeeeeaaaakkkk the ice wall creaks and groans.

But it's useless, for a long time the magic society has taught「wall」as one of the first spells to magicians, it's not possible to break it in such a short amount of time.

「Amazing.....that giant body is completely frozen.....」

「Claude, stand there and don't move no matter what」

I move behind the confused Claude and stick close to her back, and at that moment the immobile and enraged Sunny Raven began to shoot magic randomly.

「Hi!?」

She cried, and tried to run away. But I grabbed her shoulders from behind and held her in place. Flapping its wings and opening its beak, the raven rained many spells all throughout the range of its magic.

–Ah, the distant Roc Birds got scattered.

The Blue Wall encasement can, in the end, only seal its movements.

It is unable to stop the immobile monster's attacks, and within its range it will rain destruction.

In the blink of an eye, a crater has expanded through the area.

This is, of course, an annoying event for adventurers. When an especially powerful magic boss is reported to the magic society, secret methods will be used to deal with it.

As the surroundings are being destroyed, Claude is shaking and has broken out into a cold sweat, but is somehow still standing at attention.

I lean against her back and gulp gulp drink the magic recovery medicines I take out of Lydia's pack, and calculate the time.

–20 seconds left.

「Hieeeeeeeeeee」

「Please endure, I'll be done as soon as possible」

I reach my hand under Claude's armpit and she lets out a little scream, but doesn't move her body.

I tell her not to move, and she properly stays still.

As expected, she's well disciplined.

The Sunny Raven's Madness Mode is Red attribute level 2. It's resistant to red and weak against blue.

However, the Blue system doesn't have any strong magic usable against boss monsters.

I'd have a chance of victory with synthesis magic, but Pyro Shot has its own weakness, and since I can't properly look at it or confirm the raven's status, Gravity Sphere probably won't hit.

What should I do now?.....as I thought that, Milly's face floated across my mind.

Milly's magic specialty huh? If it's that then I don't particularly need to aim.

I cast Magic Amp and then Blue Gale.

A doubly enhanced hurricane captures and engulfs the Sunny Raven's body.

The Sunny Raven struggles and flaps around seemingly in pain.

The Blue Gale didn't seem too different compared to Milly's even though I enhanced it.

It can't be helped, since our Blue Gale's levels are different.

-Only 7 seconds left.

While drinking the magic recovery medicine I continue to aim at the Sunny Raven's coordinates.

Pishipishi the first Blue Wall cracks, then immediately shatters...

But there are still two walls sealing that thing's movements, so it still can't regain its freedom yet.

This additional time delay is the reason I heaped the Blue Walls on top of each other.

The wall smoothly imprisoned the Sunny Raven for a second time, and I cast Scout Scope.

Sunny Raven

Level 77

Magic Power 59828/220580

It's being cut down little by little.

If it's like this can I just defeat it?

I still have magic recovery medicine too.

I count the Blue Wall's activation time and cast a double Blue Gale.

Even while suffering in the hurricane, the Sunny Raven scatters magic everywhere.

A number of the spells hit Claude, but she nullifies them and continues to stand there without moving.

Because I'm pressed against her back, I can tell how scared she is, her heart is beating violently in fear.

Her hands and feet are shaking and shivering.

No matter how well she can nullify magic, it's still undoubtedly scary.

But there's no choice but to withstand it.

Do your best Claude, if it's you then I believe you can do it.

Once more I estimate the right time and cast Blue Wall twice again.

It'd be a waste of magic so I won't use Scout Scope anymore.

For the fourth time……Double Blue Gale!

The hurricane tears into the Sunny Raven, and its body made of flames dispersed into the air.

At the same time, I felt that I had leveled up.

I finished it.

「That's amazing! Zeph-kun! You really beat it!」

「Though the surroundings are in a terrible state」

Claude looked over her shoulder with a smiling face and let out a gasp.

Claude looked around the area and saw that wherever the magic of the enraged Sunny Raven hit, there was a crater with smoke rising out of it.

What a horrible state this place is in.

Ah well, a dungeon spot with highly concentrated magic will, to some degree, repair such damage within a few days.

It's to the point where the defeated monsters can be revived by magic. There's no reason for it not to be enough to restore some land.

Even so, Claude seems overcome with emotion. Her eyes seem to have gotten misty.

Well it's not like I don't understand how she feels, I thought while looking at her face from the side. Then she turned her face towards me and embraced me tightly.

「I.....I thought that.....if I could protect everyone then it'd be fine for me to die here.....but you protected everyone and even beat the boss.....Zeph-kun I'm so glad to be with you..!」

With a tearful voice Claude lets out her feelings, and when I pet her head a little, she hugs me even tighter.

This is all well and good, but the plate armor is hurting me.

Well, Claude's happy, so why not stay like this for a while?

Chapter 49: Kill Steal

「Zeph-kun! Please look at that!」

Claude was pointing at where the Sunny Raven had just disappeared, it seems it left an item there.

It's a sword.

The item the Sunny Raven dropped is the treasure sword Freybrand.

It is loaded with flame magic and is capable of casting Red Ball without verbal chanting.

It relies on one's own magic, the quality of that magic, and several other factors which cause the power to vary greatly. The「Anyone can use it」Red Ball isn't that powerful because of it.

Though I say that, it is an interesting weapon nonetheless. Nobles and rich people usually want this sword to show off, in other words it's a luxury item.

I wonder if it's relatively rare at this time? In Beruta town I saw it being sold once at a stall.

At that time, I think the price was.... 3,000,000 rupi, and even at that price it sold immediately.

Why a monster turns into things like weapons, armor, etc. is unknown. But one sort of explanation is that, the magic from the surroundings in the dungeon is concentrated inside of monsters, while in combat the monsters begin to form the items according to appearance and type.

I immediately ran over to Freybrand and went to take it in my hand.

—-but my hand was deflected and I felt a light pain.

Then from the side another hand reaches out and grabs the treasure sword Freybrand.

It seems like they teleported over here, and before I could do anything, the hand had hidden the sword away inside a black coat.

「That.....why.....」

In contrast to Claude's cry of dismay, I clicked my tongue. As I thought.

The Sunny Raven was hurt before. In all likelihood, before it fought us, it probably had already been in a battle.

While it was in battle it was probably shot while we were unable to see.

The monster is made up of the dungeon's magical energy. The items dropped from the monsters are also made up and surrounded by the same magic and energy.

This magic will reject anyone except the one who fought the monster. Until this magic disappears the only ones who can pick up the item is the main fighter and their partner.

The definition of「Main Fighter」and partner are the ones who did the most damage to the monster.

If more than one party hurt the same monster, the one who did the most damage is given priority.

Therefore, those with ill intentions purposefully attacking from the side to steal the item, this is called a「Kill Steal」, the magic association decided that this action is prohibited.

「.....! Intentionally stealing the kill from the side is banned!」

「That is pretty much only for normal monsters only. Claude, kill stealing or attacking from the side to take down a dangerous and powerful boss is a valid act.」

「That's the case. Sorry.」

Immediately above where I was squatting I hear a familiar low husky voice.

—-this voice, can it be!?

Surprised, I raise my head and it's just as I remember. Short black hair and a black coat. Underneath it is a well-proportioned and slim body.

Navel exposed, with a short shirt slightly open at the chest and well-

toned abs.

A magic enhancing circle was drawn upside-down on black gloves. On her neck is a silver necklace with magic enhancements. Cold almond shaped eyes and a straight nose.

I remember the appearance of this woman as her coat flaps as I look at her.

「Good work」

(Master!)

I froze in surprise and somehow managed to keep myself from crying out.

This woman, once upon a time, took me in as a disciple even though it was an unreasonable request, Seruberie Shugeru.

I never interacted much with other people but, within only half a year of being with her I acknowledged her as the strongest mage I'd seen. Her impression is sharper than what I'm used to, but on the whole her atmosphere is just the same.

Her thin, wolf-like body and her sharp predatory gaze are the same as always.

My deeply emotional gaze might have seemed strange to my motionless master.

Giving me a dubious look, she wordlessly teleported away.

「What the heck was that!」

Not paying attention to the pouting and angry Claude, I stare in a daze in the direction my master has just disappeared.

She looks at my face and sees that I'm not really paying attention, and her cheeks puff up even further in displeasure.

A little bit later we return to Milly and Lydia's side. Milly is on the verge of tears and is still continuing to cast healing on Lydia.

「We have just returned Milly-san」

When Milly hears Claude's call, she lifts her face, and the tears gathered in her eyes start to flow down her face.

「Zeph, Claude you're okay!」

Leaving Lydia, she leaps towards me and Claude.

H.....hugging my neck with all your strength is painful.

「You two.....why are you both always so beat up.....」

Now that you mention it whenever Claude and I fight together we seem to always end up in tatters.....

Maybe we don't have very good compatibility.

As I was spacing out and thinking, Lydia abruptly sat up.

「.....huh? what's going on guys? I mean what happened to me too?」

Since she hit her head it seems like her consciousness is confused.

Lydia looks at us with a sleepy blank expression on her face, and we all start laughing.

Since after all that's happened we're tired, we are ready to go back to town.

We all go to the edge of a cliff and teleport directly to the foot of the mountain. Then we waited for the carriage to come and returned to the town by evening. The loot that was in the carriage, the roc bird claw etc., was sold for 20,000 rupi, and while Milly was pleased with the money, Claude, who had seen my master take Freybrand, had a complicated expression.

By the way, since last time we used money to buy Milly and Claude equipment, this time the money is to buy equipment for me. It's fine to use it freely but, well it's good to take my time to choose.

We split with Lydia and the three of us were on the way back to the inn. Milly kept asking about the boss fight over and over, but we said that we had run away from it.

Claude and I had gotten our stories straight and our acting was pretty

good so we weren't found out. Claude looked at me, her gaze was threatening and a little scary demanding a proper explanation later.

When we got back to the inn, Milly went by herself to take a bath and Claude visited my room.

「What's the meaning of this! Why is this a secret from Milly-san? And why are you siding with that person!?」

When she entered the room, Claude drew closer to me.

She was staring at me and looked like she was going to grab me at any moment.

「....Well calm down Claude. It's not that I'm on mas.....her side. Boss hunting just has those kinds of rules. And if we were to tell Milly she'd just blow up and there'd be trouble」

「That's.....certainly you could say that I guess....」

I drive away the still dissatisfied Claude and recall what happened this noon.

The moment before master teleported, I barely managed to cast Scout Scope.

Seruberie Shugeru

Level 91

「Red」 Lvl 72/78

「Blue」 Lvl 78/85

「Green」 Lvl 45/70

「Sky」 Lvl 79/94

「Soul」 Lvl 18/65

Magic Power 1126/5715

That person has a really high magic level.

Right now my master should be around 20 years old or so.....

At that stage it is extremely hard to raise your level.

In those days Scout Scope wasn't around so they wouldn't really know, but reaching such a level took only 20 years.

Also there is the risk of「Death」that comes with long periods of hunting, there aren't many that would hunt for such a long time, also..... in those days compared to now the leveling up might reach a brake at high levels and you may only be able to level up once per year or something like that.

I don't even know what to say about this kind of speed.....

However, what's truly surprising isn't just this.

Before she took off, I couldn't see very well but, there were at least 10....special magic's that I could see.

It was the inherent magic that was specialized to my Master that I've seen her use in the past. There was an enchantment spell on her equipment, which increased the effectiveness of said equipment however, that obvious enchantment was to hide her more special magic's which she had stored away in case of emergencies.

As per usual, she is still such a careful person.

Re: Master Magic

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Chapter 50: The Middle of the Night

「.....no matter how much you ask if it's not possible it's not possible. Sorry but I'm busy. Try someone else.」

Shaaaa the rain was falling, my head bowed, a woman looked at me emotionlessly.

Her black coat flapping in the wind, not letting a single drop of rain through.

In those days I didn't know much about magic but, while other mages were using umbrellas and wearing raincoats, the woman in front of me was using magic to block the rain.

I thought that other mages might not be able to do this and it needed amazing magic usage.

I continue to look at her in envy and listlessly comb my hair up and let out a weary sigh.

「.....why not me?」

「That's.....」

As master is about to answer I—-wake up.

A dream huh?

A dream of the past when I met master.

I've heard of cases where you wake up at midnight from a dream...there are those kinds of things.

My mouth is parched.

In my room is a pitcher full of water, I pour it into a teacup, and drink it all in one gulp.

It's still dark outside.

I think it's probably still the middle of the night.

By the way, I wasn't woken up by the dream, but instead woke up naturally.

Inside of Time Square I can endow a sleeping state by casting Sleep Code and Healing at the same time, in an instant I can enter a state of deep sleep and it can cut my necessary sleep time in about half.

When I'm with Milly and the others, I can't act as I please and I can't find any time to train magic on my own, but I can utilize this time between midnight and dawn to train as much as I want.

It's become a habit now to cast Scout Scope when I get up.

Zeph Einstein

Level 37

「Red」 Lvl 30/62

「Blue」 Lvl 27/87

「Green」 Lvl 28/99

「Sky」 Lvl 29/89

「Soul」 Lvl 20/97

Magic Power 1450/1465

Oh yeah, on the Sunray Mountains I used Black Sphere and Green Sphere quite a bit, I wonder how many levels I got.

I check these two levels and then I notice something.

White Sphere Lvl 1

Summon Servant

Below White Sphere, there is something written in gray letters, called Summon Servant.

All the other magic is written in white letters.

It seems like Scout Scope's level has increased.

It seems like it's reached the point where I can acquire new magic.

「However, Summon Servant huh, I haven't heard of this magic. It seems like a type of summoning magic though....」

There are methods to learn magic through scrolls, and there is a method to learn magic through increasing your level. (Actually learning through levels is the original method.) For example: if you raise the level of Red Ball enough, then you will eventually be able to use Red Shot.

For Soul magic, anything beyond mid-class spells require a high-class medium (costing 1000 rupi each) to use, for this reason it is quite restrictive.

For that reason, Soul magic is limited to extremely rich people or whimsical flights of fancy.

These kinds of people who spend such Grand amounts of money on magic don't really have any reason to get involved with the magic association, therefore the Grand Soul Magics are mostly unknown to most.

「I thought that you could use the first Grand magics once you level up Sphere and Crash.」

The mid-class long range magic Sphere and the short range Crash, if I remember correctly, once you train these two, it'll become possible to use Grand Magic.

「I wanna try it out……but, it costs too much money」

The first Grand Magic I remember learning was the…Red Grand Magic, by using Crash and Sphere as my main, I remember it took me about two months.

It'd be 500 times a day for 60 days, so that's about 30,000 times and that'd come out to about….30,000,000 rupi?

Moreover this is just an assumption, it's possible for a Grand Magic to require up to 3 high quality mediums.

「…..so that's why no one uses it…」

Because I'm a person that finds most things bothersome, carrying around jangling clanking high quality mediums for spells was something I've not done.

However, Soul is the magic I have the second greatest talent in.

And looking at it, I'm curious about this magic that I haven't heard of before.

「First of all I've got to earn money.」

I don't feel that it's appropriate to dip into the guild's funds, I've got to figure out a way to earn money from hunting at night.

Though I say that, I can't go too far away.

I have to go money hunting within Beruta……

「……oh yeah there's that place」

-Cave by the Seaside–

It's the dungeon where I first went hunting with Lydia.

It's not the season for mass gathering, but the Nippers drop the Sea God's Tears and they're worth some money.

Plus, this late at night there aren't really any people.

This time I enter from the entrance.

The inside is pretty spacious and half of it is covered by the tide.

There seems to be some deep areas so I need to proceed with caution.

As expected, since it's so late there's no one here, so I can expect to do some pleasant hunting.

I cast Black Boots, wind covers my feet, and my body feels lighter.

I teleport intermittently, quickly searching and in the distance I see a shadow move.

A light blue, soft and flabby, jelly shape is there.

And from it a feeler extends out searching around it for prey.

「Seaside Gel huh」

A jellyfish that lives in the sea with dungeon magic, it gains the ability to roam on land.

Its body is slow but the feelers and unexpectedly fast and powerful so being cautious is a good idea.

When I notice it approaching me slowly, I cast Black Boots on it, the Seaside Gel is covered in wind, and it looks like someone put it on fast forward as it comes after me. The increased speed of it squirming towards me was kind of disgusting.

Be that as it may, it's speed was still only about half of mine, so I had it follow me around while I hunt.

As I led the Seaside Gel around, I saw a Nipper and shot a Red Ball at it.

When it got hit by the flames, it started chasing me but it was slow, I cast Black Boots, and the Nipper's speed increased.

I repeat this several times and eventually I have a few monsters following at a sped up pace, however the concentration of monsters is too thin.

For training and hunting this is lacking in efficiency.

「Black Crash!」

The monster group was caught up in a dark tornado and was torn apart, then I kept walking.

Shall I go in deeper?

It's late at night but the inside of the cave is lit up.

The moss on the walls seems to be able to glow.

If you think about it, this cave should be dark even at noon, but it seems like that won't be a problem.

While I'm walking, if I find a Nipper I cast Black Crash and tear it apart.

「This is certainly 1000 rupi. Now I only need to repeat this 30,000 times....」

Once before Lydia got an order for tens of High quality mediums, but it was a miscalculation.

She almost fainted.

It's not the Nipper's hunting season so there aren't that many around.

However, my aim isn't the Nippers.

I came here when it wasn't that time because there wouldn't be any people, and the monsters would be left alone.

「....there it is.」

In the corner of the cave.

A huge red body half hidden by rocks, seemingly asleep, and unmoving.

8 large legs twitching at times, and large claws moving up and down with its breath.

The seaside cave's mid-boss, King Nipper.

「I'll be your opponent for the night.」

Chapter 51: Acquisition

I confirmed the existence of the King Nipper sleeping by the side of a rock, and I begin to formulate the combat plan.

There are no enemies in the surrounding area, moreover the area is quite spacious for battle, If my speed is enhanced and I attack it whilst kiting it backwards, it should be sufficient to kill it.

A little distance is taken, I faced towards the King Nipper and began chanting green sphere.

A green magic ball floats in the air as it flutters forwards.....following that I casted another green sphere.

The speed of the green sphere is slow, and it is difficult to hit mobile targets.

However, the opposite is also true, for a target that isn't very agile, it is possible to cast multiple green spheres and hit the target.

The moment the first green sphere hit, I chanted time square, and I simultaneously casted both black sphere and green sphere.

「Gravity Sphere!!」

a black magic ball is generated and the torso of the King Nipper was being shaved off.

For something as huge as a King Nipper, it wasn't really necessary to aim a body part with so much precision, but perhaps it was because I was continuously using this spell in the Sunray Mountain Range, but I have become able to pretty accurately target the location I aim at.

It just means that I got used to the spell I suppose.

The next green sphere also lands on its target.

When the second green sphere hit, the King Nipper was pressed against the rock wall, and seemingly as if it was in pain, it clattered and squirmed to escape the ball.

I wanted to continue.....to attack however, I didn't have limitless magic

so I needed to confirm it's health.

As the green sphere slowly fades away I immediately casted scout scope.

King Nipper

Level 58

Magical Value 48825/65824

I used almost all of my magical energy to cast these spells, and it took around 17000 health.

The green sphere was now completely broken, and as the King Nipper approaches me, I perform my meditation.

Whilst circulating my magical energy throughout my body, I imagine my body being very still.

The King Nipper raises it's scissor hands in the air, and throws it straight towards me, I quickly jump backwards and evade the blow.

I keep meditating whilst continuing to create a bigger distance between the King Nipper.

.....About 20 percent has been recovered.

It's because half of my focus is on evading the hits.

The rate of recovery is slower than usual.

Over and over again, the King Nipper strikes at me with it's huge scissor hands and even though it was possible to avoid, the magnitude of damage still frightened me.

I have safe protection on me so it wasn't like I was going to die in one hit, however whenever I barely avoid the strike, I feel a chill up my spine, and it disturbs my concentration.

Using Gravity Sphere many times, to some degree I have been able to grasp the feeling when it's about to "hit" the target, and I suppose I will only get better as I keep using it.

If I used some sort of elemental wall, and stopped it's movements, it

would be really easy to take it down, however I was resolved to improve my close quarters combat so I discarded the idea.

This is because, the King Nipper was big and slow.

For a sparring partner, this fellow was the perfect practice.

.....30 Percent Recovery.

I kept avoiding the attacks, and whilst planning for my next set of actions, I continued to meditate.

If this was a quick moving monster, I wouldn't be able to replicate this behaviour.

At least, with my current strength that is.

Dogun!!

A sound of impact resounds as the King Nipper misses his strike again, suddenly the King Nipper stops it's movements.

It would seem that after striking the wall, it's thick scissor hands was stuck and wouldn't come out.

Chance!

I approached it, holding my hand over it's thick shell and recited Green Sphere.

Before the impact, the King Nipper began to blow bubbles out of its mouth.

The shell carapace cracks a little.

It's eyes looked towards me, it seemed to be filled with anger as it glared viciously.

However, I was unconcerned.

「Green Crash!!」

When I fired off my blast of magic towards it, its body began to sink even deeper into the rock wall.

If he's stuck in the wall like this, can't I just take advantage and keep

shooting him?

Even his torso is starting to sink into the wall and the ceiling crumbles a little.

「Green Crash!」

As it was struggling to get out, I didn't let it and fired another attack.

However, with that last blow, the wall completely crumbles and the King Nipper retrieved it's freedom.

The moment it breaks free, it lashes out at me in anger with it's huge scissor hands and it manages to catch the edge of my clothing, just like that, my body was carried by the force of the swing.

「Shit……!?」

Just as I was thinking this, it was too late, the ballistic impact threw me against the rock wall.

Blood flowed backwards from my internal organs, and a little leaks out from my mouth.

My clothes ripped half way and it was lucky that the clothes were no longer caught in its grasp.

If I was crushed continuously by its scissor hands, even if I had safe protection on me, I would have not been able to get away without severe injuries.

I walked forwards with an unsteady gait, as I meditated.

Previously I have already hit it with green crash three times, it is likely that it still has more than half of its hp.

Even if I was in my best condition it would take around 3 minutes to completely recover my magic.

On top of this, with my injured state, and being exposed to the attacks of the King Nipper, I have to endure whilst meditating.

The situation is quite bad, and it is in times like this that a true magician would be able to go into deep meditation.

My consciousness was purely focused on two things: meditating and avoid attacks.

Optimization of ideas and putting it into practice.

Predict the King Nippers trajectory of attack from its starting point to the finish, and focus on meditating to the limits before evading the attack.

Zudon! The downward swing of its large pincers could be predicted! The angle and position it would land in.

I stared into the ground where its pincers were now buried with no feelings whatsoever, with a lot of force, the King Nipper dug up a rock from the ground and flung it towards me.

I could also predict this set of movements.

I hid myself behind boulder as the rock came flying over, and as the remnants of flying debris settled down, I quickly escaped from this small space into a wider place running with short steps.

Perhaps this would work better if I avoid like Lydia, who avoids the blow with minimal movements, however, that kind of movement is impossible for me.

Forecasting the orbit from the starting point of the attack, I could roughly deal with it.

Erasing any distracting thoughts, and to a certain extent predicting its attack patterns and movements, the best I can do is optimize my unrefined movements by repeating it many times.

If there is some distance between us the King Nipper's movements are quite dull and monotonous.

After a while it was simple to deal with.

Whilst slowly meditating, I kept on evading the attack of the King Nipper.

My magic was recovering fairly well, it should be about done.

「Gravity Sphere!!」

The carapace of the King Nipper began to billow and creak as a fissure opened up.

When I was fighting it previously, I remember that I casted Pyro Crash to deal approximately 7000 damage to it.

Gravity Sphere was similar but a little more powerful.

Because my level has increased since then so I approximate it to be around 10,000 per blast.

In other words, I would need to cast it around 3 or 4 more times.....

I regained my breath at once and began meditating again.

—After applying the third round of Gravity Sphere to it, the King Nipper was swallowed by the black magical sphere and was exterminated.

It was an intense fight.....

Both the ground and the surface of the rock wall in the surroundings were filled with holes as dust floated around.

The last time I killed the boss it did not drop anything special, but the King Nipper has a high chance of dropping the Poseidon Tears.

The other thing it could drop quite frequently was an even bigger Poseidon Tear and it's price would be ten times the amount of a normal tear.

Therefore, it was unsurprising that the King Nipper was a monster that was often targeted by Adventurers.

After the King Nipper disappeared, I doubted my eyes momentarily as to what I saw. What lie there was a square light brown object that was shining. On the square object, a picture of the King Nipper was drawn on it.

「A King Nipper Card....You've got to be kidding me....?!」

Credits

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